



Writers association committee meets

AMMAN (J.T.) — The resurrected Jordan Writers Association (JWA) Executive Committee met Saturday to discuss the best means to implement the government's decision Friday which allowed the association to resume its work after a 20-month hiatus. Attending the meeting, which was held at the residence of one of the committee members, were Ibrahim Al Ahdal, Abdullah Kadiwani, Ibrahim Al Khazali and Fakhri Kassar. Also attending the meeting were Secretary for Internal Affairs Ahmad Al Mudeh, Secretary for International Affairs Nasser Sarhan, Treasurer Mawlay Al Oudil, and Secretary of Culture, Press and Publications Badar Al Badar. Minister of Culture and President of the association Khaldun Al Khaldun and members Mahmoud Shugair and Salem Al Nabus did not attend. The meeting discussed a date for convening the association's general assembly and discussing the executive and financial affairs of the association.

Jordan Times

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 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Cabinet committee reformed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet, during its weekly session Saturday, agreed on the reformation of the financial, economic, and planning committee so that it would now include Prime Minister Mudar Badran as president and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Massadeh as vice president. It would also include as members Planning Minister Awad Al Masri, Finance Minister Bassel Jarrah, Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Fariz, Energy Minister and Mineral Resources Minister Tabet Al Taher, and Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al Nahud. The economic advisor at the Prime Ministry will undertake the duties of the committee secretary.

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Carrier celebrates anniversary

King opens new RJ facilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, Saturday marked its 26th anniversary with a celebration attended by His Majesty King Hussein, who inaugurated the airline's simulator unit and a new operation control centre.

In a brief speech on the occasion, King Hussein expressed appreciation to RJ's officials and technicians and voiced pride in the success of the national airline over the years.

"The great strides of successes achieved by the airline make me personally feel very proud of this national establishment for which we have been providing care and support with all our means to make it rightfully Jordan's ambassador to the world," King Hussein said at the ceremony held at the Alia Gateway Hotel near the Queen Alia International Airport.

"With sincere dedication and relentless efforts of its personnel RJ has been able to achieve success, which we hope will continue in the future, and the airline will cope with the new and modern developments in the field of air transport and civil aviation," King Hussein said.

RJ, the King added, will remain at the forefront among world airlines.

King Hussein congratulated the RJ staff on the anniversary and paid tribute to their efforts. Later he listened to a speech by

RJ Board Chairman Khaldun Abu Hassan pledging that RJ "will not only remain a source of pride for Jordan, but will also become a productive institution operating on economic basis and seeking to make reasonable margins of profit."

King Hussein distributed certificates to 30 RJ staff members who served for at least 25 years in the airline and presented the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the Second Order to Captain Fouad Salim who has reached the age of 60 and is still serving in his post.

Before the speeches, King Hussein inaugurated a simulator unit for training pilots on the Airbus 310 aircraft, and heard a briefing on functions and training programmes. RJ has been requested by Air France, among other world airlines, to provide training for their pilots at the new unit's simulator acquired from France.

King Hussein also inaugurated RJ's new operations centre, which controls air traffic and links Jordan with various other airports.

Present with King Hussein at the ceremonies were Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, Minister of Transport Ibrahim Ayoub and senior officials and high-ranking army officers as well as French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday personally tests a facility at the new operation control centre of Royal Jordanian (Petra photo)

Patriarchs restrict Christmas festivities

Israelis shoot and wound 9 Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded at least nine Palestinian protesters Saturday during demonstrations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Arab sources and hospital officials said.

Traffic came to a halt in several areas of the occupied territories as motorists honked car horns to protest against the army's confiscation of Palestinian cars, witnesses said.

Troops shot and wounded two Palestinians in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, when hundreds of residents held a spontaneous march immediately after traffic stopped, Arab sources said.

The underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising, in its latest communique, had called for the five-minute stoppage to protest at the army's seizure of Arab cars for use in raids in the occupied territories.

Most people in the Gaza Strip observed the call and stopped their cars in towns, villages and refugee camps. But traffic was normal in such major West Bank towns as Hebron, Jenin and Nablus.

Troops in the West Bank town of Ramallah shot and wounded four Palestinians while clashing with stone-throwers near the city centre, hospital officials said. One of the wounded, a 14-year-old girl, was hit in the chest and stomach.

Three protesters were injured by army gunfire in Gaza City and Shtati refugee camp, hospital officials said.

In the Arab Jerusalem district of Jabal Mukaber, police found

the body of a 46-year-old Palestinian and said they believed he was killed by fellow Arabs who suspected him of collaborating with Israel.

Troops clamped a curfew on Nur Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm after local activists pulled down a fence separating the camp from the main Tulkarm-Nablus road.

The army had erected the fence to stop youths from stoning Israeli vehicles.

In West Jerusalem, arsonists believed to be Palestinians set fire to five Israeli-owned vehicles overnight, police said. In the last few months, more than 120 cars have been burned here, and Arab activists are believed to be responsible in most of the cases.

In Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, some 100 Arabs marched with Palestinian flags and placards bearing the names of activists from the militant Red Eagles group believed to be involved in a series of collaborator killings.

The Red Eagles' commander was shot dead and five other members of the group were captured in an army raid on Nov. 5. However, Palestinian activists in Nablus have said that the group continues to operate.

An Arab reporter in Nablus said the march dispersed when Israeli troops arrived and fired warning shots in the air.

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers also blocked entrances to Nablus to prevent a group of Israeli activists from meeting with Palestinians, the reporter said.

The army command said

Peace Now members were barred since Nablus has been declared a closed military zone and only its residents could enter the city.

Christian patriarchs of Jerusalem and the Holy Land have decided to cancel festive Christmas visits and limit other celebrations in sympathy with Palestinians who lost their relatives in the uprising, the Latin Patriarchate said in a Christmas message Saturday.

The Jerusalem office of the Latin patriarch, Michel Sabbah, said Sabbah met with Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros I, Armenian Yeghiseh Dederian and his paternity Carlo Coccitelli Custos of the Holy Land to discuss the "deteriorating situation" in the West Bank and Gaza.

"During the meeting, the patriarchs wished to manifest their deep concern about the continuing tragic events, which are causing unnecessary loss of human lives and suffering to the population," it said in a statement.

The patriarchs decided to issue a Christmas message voicing the need for justice and peaceful settlement of the conflict; to restrict Christmas celebrations to liturgical services and prayers for justice and peace; and to cancel all Christmas visits and other festivities "in sympathy with those who mourn their beloved ones."

The decision followed Thursday's announcement by municipalities of Bethlehem and the neighbouring Beit Sahour that community Christmas celebrations would be cancelled for the third year in a row to support the uprising.

Badran vows tough action against those tampering with national unity

House panel to probe clashes at Yarmouk

By Nermeen Murad
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — What was expected to be a regular Lower House of Parliament session to discuss temporary committees turned into a heated four-hour debate between the House and the government over a students' clash at Yarmouk University last week and an opinion challenge on inter-Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

The deputies delivered long speeches lashing accusations against several government, security and academic bodies against a background of futile attempts by others who insisted on investigating the real causes of what they described as "national segregation," rather than concentrating on the details of the Yarmouk incident. The final outcome of the debate was a decision to set up a committee to investigate the incident and report to the House.

In the beginning of the session, Prime Minister Mudar Badran provided the House with details of the incident at Yarmouk and regretted "the sectional character" of the disturbances. "We in this country depend on the solid rock of national unity... we will not let any invisible hand tamper with it. I strongly condemn this incitement," Badran said.

The clashes were described in reports as pitting Jordanian students and students of Palestinian origin.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan, who served as president of Yarmouk University before his appointment to the Badran cabinet earlier this month, briefed the House on the clashes.

Hamdan blamed the tension at the university on what he termed as "accumulations from the past, the lack of trust between students and the dearship of students affairs as well as a rift between the teaching staff and the students."

Yarmouk University has been the scene of student political activity and tension which was highlighted in a clash with security forces in 1986 which resulted in the death of three people.

This year's clashes took place during a week held to celebrate the second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising. Reports from the government and Arab deputies said that there were no deaths and no injuries were used in the clashes as claimed in some news reports.

Deputy Youssef Al Athem blamed the clashes on "a type of humans who hate to see the festivals of democracy and freedom."

dom in Jordan."

He also accused security departments which "dress their staff in civil clothes to walk into the universities and create problems and later arrest the innocent."

He asserted that there was another "force at work" which he only described as "a shadow government." He added that Yarmouk University had to be "cleaned of these types to ensure us a real academic university."

Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawi demanded that the identity of those involved in the affair be announced and then brought to trial "themselves and those behind them."

Deputy Neif Al Hadeed blamed plotters "who plan day and night to ruin this nation and to extend their country from the Nile to the Euphrates."

It is said that during our celebration of the Palestinian uprising we hear talk of national segregation and sectionalism... this has to stop," Hadeed said.

He also spoke against blaming any one party or body for anything before investigating the situation and reaching solid facts.

"We talk a lot but we do not do anything," he concluded.

Deputy Ibrahim Khreishat pointed out the importance of understanding national unity which he described as "one of the foundations upon which our existence depends and all of us should work to maintain it."

"Highlighting national segregation threatens our existence... we should come to it and oppress so it would not be repeated in other areas in the Kingdom," Khreishat said.

Amman Deputy Ahmad Owaid Abbadi warned against "ignoring the importance" of what took place at Yarmouk and described the incident as a "spark which will lead to a consuming fire which will destroy the green and the dry."

He demanded the investigation be conducted by a parliamentary committee "to ensure that no innocent people are incriminated in this issue while the guilty become nationalists who are working to protect Jordan and run free."

Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber said he found no cause for discussing "national segregation" and said, "The people are one and the nation is one." But he indirectly blamed security departments for policies which encourage "national segregation."

Deputy Hamzeh Mansour suggested that an urgent call be sent out to all students in the name of student committees asking them

to be patient. He stressed the importance of forming a parliamentary committee to investigate the causes of the clashes.

Deputy Abdullah Akaleh described the clashes as "a spark to instigate trouble" and called upon deputies to "put out this spark rather than blow on it."

He also asked parliamentarians to head out to their constituencies and talk to the people there about the destructiveness of sectionalism and segregation among one people.

Latih Shbeilat rejected that the problem was solely the responsibility of one department or other.

"The problem is that there is a greater policy of national segregation, of Jordanizing the Kingdom... there are government departments which only employ East Bank Jordanians," he contended. This is a "realistic problem... we want to end this problem," he added.

He pointed out to what he described as "stubbornness in not changing the academic leaders or deans when such a problem arises."

In reply to the deputies, Badran denied that there was a "showdown government" at his time and said: "What happened was not a departmental policy, it is the policy of the government."

He added that his government "will be responsible for the behaviour of any department and does not need to hide behind any department."

He said that those suspected of involvement in the clashes would be brought to trial and that it was the duty of the judicial authority to deal with them. He warned against the overlapping of tasks among the three authorities and suggested that the House leave the issue to the judicial authority.

He said that the clashes had no ulterior motives. "These accidents happen between students... they happened at the University of Jordan before," he said.

But he added that although these things do happen "they are wrong... extremely wrong."

At the end of the discussions, deputies opted to form a parliamentary committee to investigate the causes of the clashes. The committee was not immediately formed.

Amman Deputy Fakhri Kassar delivered a speech thanking the premier and cabinet, in the name of journalists and writers, for freedom given to the press and its management as well as the reinstatement of the Jordanian Writers Association.

(Continued on page 2)

Japan to return hijackers to China

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan agreed Saturday to grant Peking's request for the return of the hijackers of a Chinese airliner who police said wanted to go to Taiwan.

A Chinese man and woman with a young child hijacked a Boeing 747 of China's national airline with 223 passengers and crew on Saturday after it left Peking for New York.

The drama ended on the tarmac of Fukuoka airport in southern Japan when the man fell from an open door of the landed plane, breaking his back and both legs.

Police said the hijacker was disillusioned with China after taking part in this summer's suppressed pro-democracy protests in Peking and he wanted to go to Taiwan.

He entered the cockpit over Shanghai and threatened to detonate a bomb in the cabin, they said. He also told them he had left a bomb in an unnamed Peking hotel.

Chinese police and security officers began patrolling several

hotels late Saturday to check the report.

The Japanese government, in a statement on television, said it based its decision to return the three Chinese on an international agreement on air piracy.

Television reports said Japan's decision to meet Peking's request for their repatriation was also designed to prevent a worsening of relations between the two countries.

One television network, reporting from Fukuoka airport, said the Chinese aircraft had been refuelled and could leave at any time though passengers had not yet boarded.

The Japanese government wanted to complete its investigation of the incident before it sent the plane back to China, but it was unclear how long that might take, the television reports said.

It was also unclear whether the hijackers would be returned with the passengers and the plane or separately.

The injured hijacker identified himself as Zhang Zhenhui, 35.

'Jordanian press faces a long way ahead before assuming its right role'

By P.V. Vivekanand
 Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Jordanian press has taken a fresh turn in the wake of the recent government decision to unshackle it from direct administrative and editorial control, but a lot remains to be done before Jordanian newspapers can assume their rightful national role and exercise their authority as the fourth estate, according to the head of the Jordan Press Association (JPA).

"It is not enough that we go back to the situation which prevailed before Aug. 24, 1988," when the Economic Security Committee (ESC) used martial law powers to assume control of the three major newspaper establishments in the country, said Hashem Khreishat, who was elected JPA president early this year. "In fact, we have to turn a totally new leaf in the history of Jordan's press simply because never in the last 22 years did our fourth estate play its role in full," he told the Jordan Times Saturday, six days after the government re-

versed the ESC decision and returned the management of newspapers to their former boards of directors.

Khreishat welcomed last week's government decision as part of the ongoing democratization process in Jordan, and as a "new chapter in the course of the Jordanian press, particularly in light of the liberalisation moves launched simultaneously with the Nov. 8 general elections." However, he said, the Jordanian press is far short of its actual potential and performance, given some of the aspects that have characterised the media scene of the Kingdom for many years.

One of the major hurdles that impede the Jordanian newspapers in exercising full freedom, according to Khreishat, is "the law on press and publications which contains several provisions that chain down the newspapers and journalists in the country."

Khreishat, a veteran journalist with the Arabic-language daily Al Ra'i, specifically referred to one of the provisions of the law which stipulates that the government can revoke the

license of any newspaper or any other publication for violating any of the articles of the law. "This is totally unacceptable," said Khreishat. "How can anyone expect any newspaper or journalist to work with objectivity and accuracy when faced with the possibility that what it publishes or what he or she writes could result in suspension or total closure of the publication?" he asked. "It gives a weapon to officials to intimidate and threaten newspapers and journalists pursuing truth and accuracy."

"It has also been a ridiculous feature in Jordan — and more so in some other Third World countries — that officials always expected the newspapers to highlight the positive aspects of their work while totally ignoring negative aspects," according to Khreishat. "They always considered the press as sub-servient to their interests and objectives."

"This approach should be completely rooted out," according to Khreishat. "It is proven all around the world that any press working under the shadow of threats or

privilege cannot do a proper job," he said. "If anything, it leads to distorted half-truths and inaccuracies and leaves many questions unanswered."

While agreeing that laws governing press and publications are essential in Jordan, as anywhere else in the world, Khreishat argues that what the Kingdom needs today is a "total restructuring of the present law to ensure that it does not encroach upon the independence and freedom of the press and journalists."

He pointed out that amendments to the present legislation were one of the pledges made by His Majesty King Hussein, and expressed hope that the law, as and when restructured, "will create a climate where the press will be clearly defined as the fourth authority with total independence and freedom with whatever responsibilities that go with it. It should not be held victim to the executive, legislative or judicial authorities while performing its job in the most responsible way and conveying truth and accuracy in the most objective manner."

Khreishat is confident that



Hashem Khreishat

"by and large, Jordanian journalists are capable of shouldering the responsibilities that such independence and freedom will place on them."

"They were never given an opportunity to prove their capabilities and potentials in full; always there were taboos and don't-touch-this-subject or don't-touch-that-subject," he added. "In many cases personal 'sensitivities' assumed a higher profile than what constitutes public interests."

Khreishat also favours relaxed regulations for licensing of new publications. "As long as it is clear that any new publication will only contribute

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League envoy continues Lebanon mission in Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa discussed Lebanon with an Arab League envoy Saturday and a Syrian newspaper said military action should not be ruled out against army chief General Michel Aoun.

Syrian officials said Sharaa met Lakhtar Ibrahim, an envoy of the Arab League committee trying to persuade Aoun to recognise President Elias Hrawi who was elected last month under terms of a league peace plan.

Aoun, who commands 15,000 troops in east Beirut, regards Hrawi as a Syrian puppet and has demanded Damascus remove its estimated 45,000 troops from Lebanon.

Foreign ministers of the Arab League committee — Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria — last week held talks with Syrian, Iraqi and French officials in a new drive to resolve the crisis.

France, along with the United States and the Vatican, has sought a peaceful end to the stand-off between Hrawi and Aoun.

The Syrian daily Al Thawra, which reflects the thinking of President Hafez Al Assad's gov-

ernment, reiterated demands for Aoun's removal and criticised Western appeals that no force be used.

"They (U.S. and France) settle other cases — which are less dangerous than Aoun — militarily and with bloody force in the Philippines and the Comoro Islands while they call for dialogue with Aoun," Thawra said in an editorial.

"What dialogue are they looking for and for how long do they want the dialogue to continue? On what basis should this strange dialogue be conducted?" the paper asked.

Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss has told Christians he cannot guarantee peace while their leader Aoun continues to defy his government.

In a televised address to the residents of east Beirut Friday night, Hoss said:

"My brethren, you will not hear the beating of the drums of war from us. You will only hear a call for harmony, reconciliation and unity."

"Saying that, I cannot assure you that stability will last as long as the irregular state of partition exists. Even if I guarantee that I

will not declare war against you, I cannot guarantee that it will not recur."

In the past, Hoss stressed that he would like Aoun to leave peacefully. His comments Friday appeared to indicate that he may be hardening his position.

Unlike Hoss, Hrawi, a Maronite Christian, has advocated the use of force to evict Aoun, who is also a Maronite.

Hrawi stepped up the pressure on Aoun Thursday by taking Aoun's troops off the army payroll.

But Aoun promised his soldiers Friday that they would continue to receive their pay. Diplomats said he could foot the bill with money from abroad and taxes levied in the Christian areas.

Hoss' 10-minute address was broadcast by the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, the television station run by the Lebanese Forces, the Christians' main militia.

Samir Geagea, commander of the 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces that constitutes the second largest fighting machine after Aoun's army in the enclave, has lately been critical of the general's intra-sectoe

ICRC official holds talks on Gulf PoWs Bahrain renews pledge to help secure Iran-Iraq peace

MANAMA (AP) — Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Bahrain's emir, vowed Saturday to continue efforts to break the deadlock in Iran-Iraq peace talks and secure a lasting settlement to the 8-year Gulf war.

In a speech marking his country's 18th National Day, the emir stressed Bahrain would work for "a rapprochement in views and narrowing the differences between Iraq and Iran to enable the two countries to reach a lasting and just peace based on the principles of good neighbourliness, non-intervention in each other's affairs and mutual respect."

Bahrain has led moves by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), to cement the Aug. 20, 1988, ceasefire and formally end the war which destabilised the Gulf and its vital shipping lanes.

As chairman of the GCC, Sheikh Isa has exchanged several messages with Tehran and Baghdad. His foreign minister has led efforts to muster international support to persuade the two sides to implement the United Nations Security Council's ceasefire resolution.

Oman will take over the GCC chairmanship, which rotates every year, when the alliance's leaders hold their annual summit in Muscat, Oman's capital, Monday.

The GCC's other members are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The Iran-Iraq talks deadlocked almost as soon as they began on Aug. 25, 1988.

The foreign ministers of both countries met separately with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York

earlier this week. But there was no sign of any breakthrough to end the impasse.

Sheikh Isa affirmed Bahrain's support for the two-year-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and Saudi-led Arab efforts to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

He also expressed satisfaction with the economic integration within the GCC, which is patterned on the European Common Market.

The emir noted that the GCC moves were "in harmony with the modern world trend for strong economic blocs."

He added: "There is a new world where features we see as we are about to enter a new century, a world in which no state, however small or big, and not even a superpower, can proceed with development and progress in isolation from the rest of the world, whose interests have become vastly intertwined."

The emir marked the celebrations in the central Gulf island state by releasing an unspecified number of prisoners.

Meanwhile the Middle East head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) met senior Iraqi officials in Baghdad Saturday to discuss an exchange of prisoners of war with Iran amid hopes that Tehran will shortly repatriate some of its wounded captives.

Angelo Gnadinger discussed the issue with Akram Al Witri, head of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, the day after Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Tehran will free ailing and disabled Iraqis in the hope that Baghdad will reciprocate.

Velayati, speaking at a news conference Friday at the United Nations headquarters in New York, did not specify how many Iraqis would be repatriated through the ICRC or when.

But he said Tehran was prepared for an exchange of all ailing and wounded PoWs. There are believed to be more than 1,000 prisoners in this category.

Iran and Iraq have released only a few hundred disabled PoWs since a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire in August last year halted fighting in the 8-year Gulf war, even though a U.N. Security Council Resolution calls on them to exchange all prisoners.

Peace talks have deadlocked leaving the PoWs, some of them held for nine years, languishing in prison camps for the last 16 months.

Velayati and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz were both in New York earlier this week for talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on breaking the peace talks impasse.

But despite Velayati's statement on the PoWs, his public remarks indicated that no substantive progress had been made.

Witri declined comment on Velayati's statement or say whether Iraq will release ailing Iranian PoWs.

The Iraqi official told the Associated Press before his meeting with Gnadinger: "Let's see if they actually do it... and then we'll make our position known."

Andreas Wigger, the chief Red Cross delegate in Baghdad, said the ICRC had not been officially informed about any Iranian decision to release a new batch of Iraqi prisoners.

But he stressed that the ICRC was ready to start repatriating ailing and wounded prisoners from Iran and Iraq immediately if asked to do so.

Wigger said the Red Cross is seeking to get both sides to observe the 1949 Geneva Convention which calls for the immediate release of all PoWs after hostilities cease.

An agreement to exchange all ailing PoWs collapsed in November 1988 with both sides accusing each other of bad faith and falsifying the number of PoWs on both sides who had sought asylum.

The Red Cross has registered some 50,000 prisoners held by Iran and more than 19,200 in Iraqi camps. But U.N. officials and diplomats estimate that the two sides hold around 100,000 PoWs between them.

Tehran has insisted that Iraq must withdraw from border areas of Iran which its forces seized in the final stages of the fighting before a complete POW exchange can take place.

It also has demanded that an exchange should not be linked to negotiations on other disputes that have stalled the peace talks.

Gnadinger arrived in Baghdad Thursday after visiting Tehran last week. But he declined all comment on his talks in the Iranian capital.

He is expected to meet with Tariq Aziz before returning to Geneva Wednesday.

Who is Lebanon's real envoy to U.S.?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Would Lebanon's real ambassador please stand up?

The request reflects the anomalous situation at the Lebanese embassy, where the battle for control of Lebanon is being reenacted between loyalists of embattled army Gen. Michel Aoun and supporters of newly elected Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

Hrawi, who has fired Aoun from all his posts, last week removed Lebanon's veteran ambassador to Washington, Abdullah Buhabib, and handed control of the embassy to the no. 2 diplomat, Sleiman Rassi.

On Wednesday, the State Department said it had been informed by Lebanon's new government that Buhabib had resigned effective Dec. 11 and Rassi was now in charge. The department said that since it recognises the Hrawi government as the legitimate ruler of Lebanon, it would now deal only with Rassi.

So far, so good. But Aoun — who is holding out with 20,000 troops at the presidential palace in Beirut and refuses to recognize the Hrawi government — sent Buhabib a telex ordering him to stay put.

"Aoun says Buhabib is the legitimate ambassador because he, Aoun, is the legitimate ruler," said embassy spokesman Youssef Sayah.

So Buhabib, a staunch Aoun hater, continues to occupy the ambassador's office and residence.

He argues that under foreign service regulations he is entitled to a two-month transition period to put his affairs in order and transfer the embassy to his successor.

"Even from a humanitarian point of view, you can't just tell someone who has been in office six years to just leave immediately," said Sayah.

But Lebanon's prime minister, Salim Hoss, balked. In recent months Buhabib had made derogatory statements about Hoss, and the Muslim leader demanded he cede his job immediately, said the Lebanese sources.

Buhabib, who owns a house in Washington and whose wife and children are U.S. citizens, turned to his U.S. and Arab friends for help.

He asked Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, the envoy of the 22-nation Arab League, to intercede on his behalf with Hoss.

Maksoud, a skilled diplomat, urged the new Lebanese government to grant Buhabib a two-month transition and avoid public embarrassment, said the Lebanese sources.

Buhabib also controls the embassy's bank accounts and has insisted he will retain control unless he is guaranteed a graceful transition, they said.

"Then, too, he could be hoping that within two months Aoun may gain control and he (Buhabib) could stay," said one official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

All this leaves the State Department in a bind. The U.S. embassy in Beirut has been shut for several months for security reasons, and the main channel of communications with the Hrawi government is through its ambassador here.

"We will deal with Rassi," said one U.S. official, adding, "we're not looking to chase Buhabib out, but we have to go with what the new government says."

far beyond discussion of Middle East questions and have a negative effect on the whole state of affairs in the United Nations."

On Monday, Vice President Dan Quayle told U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that the United States is seeking repeal of the Arab and Soviet-backed resolution which condemned Zionism as a form of racism.

He also said he would seek Soviet assistance in jointly sponsoring a resolution of repeal or sponsoring a resolution which instead would define Zionism as "the effort by Jews to regain and maintain control of their homeland."

The secretary-general added that the security of U.N. staff and respect for their rights and immunities was a matter of "utmost importance." Noting that UNRWA staff had suffered more arrests, detentions, injuries and even loss of life than the staff of any other U.N. organisation, the secretary-general said the safety and protection of agency staff was a matter of personal concern to him.

Giacomelli expressed his deep appreciation to current and former UNRWA staff for "their exemplary dedication and devotion to the agency, to their task and to the Palestinian refugees."

He said the agency would commemorate the occasion further next year on the 40th anniversary of the beginning of UNRWA operations on May 1, 1950.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar paid tribute to present and past UNRWA staff, saying "it is they who are responsible for the agency's many fine achievements, especially in education and health."

The staff, he said, "deserved the admiration of all of us in the United Nations system for the competence and devotion to duty which they have consistently shown."

VIENNA (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli have sent messages to the agency's 18,000 staff members on the 40th anniversary of the adoption on Dec. 8, 1949 of General Assembly Resolution 302, under which UNRWA was established to provide emergency aid to Palestine refugees.

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VIENNA (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli have sent messages to the agency's 18,000 staff members on the 40th anniversary of the adoption on Dec. 8, 1949 of General Assembly Resolution 302, under which UNRWA was established to provide emergency aid to Palestine refugees.

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2 Yemens challenge odds with unity plan

ADEN (R) — Against the historical odds, North and South Yemen are pressing ahead with an ambitious unity plan which could create the Arabian peninsula's most populous country and a new regional power.

The Arab World is littered with discarded unity plans. But the two Yemeni governments, despite sharply differing ideology, are now pledged to hold a popular referendum within a year to approve a single constitution.

The North and South have not been united since a few decades in the mid-17th century when the Zaydi ruler Muayyad Muhammad conquered the land from the Ottoman Turks.

The two have since charted strikingly different paths. South Yemen was dominated by the British, but switched to rigid Soviet-style socialism when it gained independence in 1967.

North Yemen remained tribal, first under the Ottoman Turks and then a local leader, until a coup in 1962 turned it into a market-oriented republic.

On Nov. 30, leaders of the two Yemens reached agreement on a timetable for a merger between countries which have fought fierce border wars over the past few years.

Diplomats said powers both inside and outside the Yemens might want to see the unity plan fail, one diplomat said.

No precise figures are known but the two Yemens are believed to have a combined population of well over eight million, outnumbering the estimated seven million Saudis.

Shortly before the unity pact was signed in Aden, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal paid a visit to South Yemen to offer financial aid.

Southern officials firmly denied the ensuing allegations that he was trying to buy the South out of the agreement.

"I don't think there is any Arab country that does not want Yemeni unity because it will be in the interest of Yemen and stability and security," South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al

Syrian officials in Damascus said the assistant secretary-general of the ruling Baath Party voiced support for Yemeni unity during a meeting with a joint Yemeni delegation.

The delegation, one of three now touring Arab capitals to seek support for unity plans, arrived Friday night.

"Syria fully realises that Arab strength lies in unity," the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) quoted the Syrian official as saying.

Rafsanjani's rivals lead in parliament elections

NICOSIA (AP) — Initial counts Saturday in Iran's parliament elections showed radical opponents of President Hashemi Rafsanjani leading in seven of the nine contests in Tehran and provincial centres.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the counts were from some 1,300 of the more than 3,000 polling stations used in Friday's voting.

Rafsanjani's main rival, former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, is among the leading candidates expected to win one of the nine vacant seats in the 270-member Majlis, or parliament.

Diplomats in Tehran said the special elections were a test for Rafsanjani, leader of the so-called pragmatists, and his efforts to open up Iran following the death on June 3 of the country's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Mohtashemi, 43, heads hardliners who oppose efforts by Rafsanjani to improve Iran's relations with the West to end a decade of isolation and secure badly needed investment.

The hardliners fear that his efforts to liberalise the economy and society will undermine revolutionary fervour and the ideological purity of Khomeini's teachings.

Mohtashemi is closely linked with Shi'ite Muslim extremists in Lebanon who are believed to hold most of the 18 Western hostages there.

He was also involved with militants who carried out suicide bombings against the U.S. embassy and the U.S. Marine base in Beirut in 1983, killing hundreds of people.

being questioned, police said, adding that he had suffered burns in the incident.

At least 1,000 Muslim militants are believed held under Egypt's emergency powers at any one time, civil rights workers say, but the figure fluctuates from month to month.

Police would not say what caused the explosion. They said the truck driver was the only person hurt.

CAIRO (R) — A truck exploded near the motorcade of Interior Minister Zaki Badr Saturday in what may have been an attempt to assassinate him, police said.

They told Reuters the truck exploded about 30 metres from the motorcade on a highway from Cairo to the international airport.

Badr, an outspoken critic of outlawed Islamic Fundamentalists, was not hurt by the blast at about 8.30 a.m. (0630 GMT).

The driver of the truck was being questioned, police said, adding that he had suffered burns in the incident.

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House panel to probe Yarmouk clashes

(Continued from page 1)

"We are not used to feeling comforted by decisions taken by the military governor except at this time, especially that it is taken as a step towards cancelling military rule," Kassar said.

He expressed hope that these measures will be followed by others which will strengthen the role of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) and reassess the press and publication law.

"I want to deliver the good sentiments of the Jordanian journalists and authors — and I am one of them — to the prime minister and his cabinet and transmit some of their hopes," Kassar said.

He also requested the premier that weekly meetings between the minister of information and the editors in chief of newspapers be terminated "since it is the type of coordination which limits the work of press as a fourth authority."

Badran stressed the importance of the meetings, "which put the press in a situation where they know what is going on in the Kingdom. They are not aimed at imposing anything on them."

After knowing the situation they are free to self-censor what they feel could be harmful to the country," Badran concluded.

At the end of the discussions, the House went back to its working schedule for the regular session and elected the temporary committee.

A suggestion by 14 deputies to form a temporary committee charged with investigating the reasons behind the deteriorating economic situation in the Kingdom was referred to the Financial Committee to perform the duties of the suggested committee.

A committee charged with studying martial law and its implications was referred to the Public Freedoms Committee while a suggestion to set up a temporary Unemployment and Prices Committee was referred to the Financial Committee.

The suggestion to investigate the press and the affairs of journalists was referred to the Executive Committee for discussion while a suggestion to develop the judicial system was referred to the Legal Committee.

The deputies unanimously agreed to donate their one-month salary to support the Palestinian uprising.

The House also unanimously agreed to issue a call to the world's parliaments to remind them of the uprising and what it faces in the way of oppression. It will also call on parliaments to work towards supporting the uprising.

The next Lower House meeting will be held Tuesday during which Badran will read his government's policy programme to Parliament.

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'Jordanian press faces a long way'

(Continued from page 1)

to the development of the country and cannot or will not threaten national security. I do not see any reason why it should be denied permission," he said. "Competition in the press is a very healthy phenomenon provided that the competitors are responsible and aware citizens."

'Journalism as a profession'

Another major demand of the JPA is a revision of its own statute and definition of its authorities in revamping and reorganising "journalism as a profession" in the country.

"Towards this end, we need to have a say in the administration of the newspapers," Khreishat said and called for direct JPA representation in the management boards of the three press establishments in the country — The Jordan Press Founda-

tion Company, which publishes Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, the Jordan Press and Publication and Distribution Company (Al Dostour), and the Dar Al Shaab Publication and Distribution (Sawt Al Shaab).

From a different vantage point, this time as an employed journalist with a local newspaper, Khreishat finds the need for a "total redefinition of a journalist's role within the administrative and editorial realms."

"There should be very clear guidelines from the top at all levels to every journalist as to what is expected of him or her and what is not," he said. "No editorial decision should be imposed on a reporter without proper explanation as to why it was taken in the first place."

"It should be natural to expect a journalist to know what he or she is handling and the implications that go with it," he asserted. "Only a full aware-

ness of what constitutes the 'border line' will help a journalist to achieve it, and, hence, it becomes the responsibility and duty of those on the top to guide him or her with what may necessarily not be public knowledge."

"Over and above everything else, every journalist should be fortified with the conviction that the newspaper is firmly behind him or her all the way," he asserted. "Everyone should be assured of protection against 'victimisation' or 'personal vendetta', including summary 'punishments'. Only then we can expect real, productive contribution from everyone."

On the administrative level, Khreishat lamented the absence of health insurance schemes for employees of the newspapers. "All JPA members enjoy health insurance and pension schemes," he pointed out. "But not all newspaper

employees are JPA members and the outstanding feature is that none of the three newspapers (which altogether employ over 700 people) has any health insurance for its staff. This situation should be immediately rectified."

What does the "new democratisation era" in Jordan signal to the Jordanian citizen in the context of the press?

"There is little doubt that the citizen was never informed in full of the realities or of the implications of various events and decisions," according to Khreishat. "The reasons are obvious, but it is our hope that from now on, we will be able to relay the right information in the right context to the reader and explain what it means in real terms."

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES BAHRAIN: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa on his country's Independence Day anniversary. The King wished the Emir continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for the Bahraini people. (Petra)

KING RECEIVES CABLE: Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali Saturday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein while his plane was crossing the Jordanian airspace en route to Iraq. In his cable, President Ben Ali wished King Hussein good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress. (Petra)

EXHIBITION: Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal Friday opened an exhibition on contemporary Islamic plastic art by Lebanese Artist Abbas Nakhleh at the Royal Cultural Centre. The exhibition, which will run through Dec. 21, includes thirty paintings. (Petra)

CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: A Jordanian team from the Ministry of Social Development has just returned to Amman from an international conference held in Tashkent, Soviet Union, on the effects of economic development on social changes. The ministry's Secretary General Mohammad Sqour, who led the team to the conference, said that the Jordanian social development experiment was reviewed by delegates from five continents. (Petra)

YARMOUK GETS NEW PRESIDENT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamada has asked the Yarmouk University Vice President for Administrative Affairs Dr. Fuad Al Sheikh Salem to serve as the university president as of Dec. 11, 1989. (J.T.)

SERVICES TO PILGRIMS: Several of the procedures followed in the pilgrimage season will be reviewed and amended in order to improve services to pilgrims, according to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Fagih. In a report published in Al Dustour Arabic daily, Fagih said there will be separation between male and female pilgrims while performing pilgrimage rituals in Mina and Arafat. (J.T.)

SOVIET TEAM IN AQABA: A visiting Soviet friendship team Saturday visited Aqaba and met with its District Governor Qattan Al Majali who briefed the group on economic developments in the port city. The group toured a number of installations in the port and attended performance by a Siberian folk troupe which presented a variety of national dances and songs. (Petra)

CIVIL DEFENCE TRAINING COURSE: A civil defence training course began at the Princess Basma Community Centre at Karak Saturday. A total of 50 ladies and young women are attending the week-long training which entails practice in first aid and protection of public safety. (Petra)

ORIENTATION COURSE: The Income Tax Department Saturday opened a two-week orientation course for new officials who have just joined the department. The department Director General Salmaan Al Tarawneh opened the course. (Petra)

PUPPET THEATRE FESTIVAL: Wafa's Qisous, director of the Puppet Theatre Project, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, leaves Amman for Tunis Sunday to take part in the week-long Fourth International Puppet Theatre Festival, which will start in the Tunisian capital Sunday. (J.T.)

Jordan, Tunisia sign accord on map production

TUNIS (Petra) — The joint Jordanian-Tunisian Technical Committee which met in Tunis in the past week concluded an agreement on the production of maps and training personnel in cartography.

A statement issued at the end of the meeting Saturday said that the two sides will conduct joint training courses at the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre and at similar centres in Tunisia as of the coming year.

The two sides will also cooperate in conducting experiments in remote sensing, and will jointly take part in a seminar on remote sensing to be held in Amman in the second half of the coming year.

Jordan for its part will participate in field surveys to be conducted by Tunisian geographic centres in Africa in May 1990, according to the statement.

The committee also endorsed agreements on cooperation in technical matters related to the production of maps, benefiting from satellite pictures and in survey operations.

The Jordanian side to the meeting was led by Dr. Okla Duheimat, the director of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, who signed the minutes of the meeting with the head of the Tunisian side.

Jordan prepares list of people to work in Yemen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Concerned Jordanian ministries and government departments are currently involved in preparing lists of names of thousands of Jordanian professionals, tradesmen and college graduates for their prospective employment in North Yemen, according to a report in Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily quoting informed sources.

The paper in a front page report, said that the North Yemenis have requested the services of Jordanian engineers, doctors, teachers, laboratory technicians, specialists in electricity, auto mechanics and skilled manpower in maintenance work in addition to wood and construction work-

ers as well as university and college graduates in various specialisations.

The report said that agreement on the absorption of Jordanians in various fields came during North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's recent visit to Jordan, during which North Yemeni officials agreed with Jordanian government departments on providing North Yemenis with vocational training in Jordanian centres and assigning Jordanians for North Yemeni students to study in Jordanian colleges and universities.

According to the paper, the agreement will be put into force with the start of the coming year.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.
- * The youths art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * Contemporary Islamic fine arts exhibition by Abbas Nakhla at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Yarmouk University.

SEMINAR

- * A seminar (in Arabic) entitled "restructuring the national thought" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

BAZAAR

- * The annual bazaar of Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped including Christmas decorations, handicrafts and gift items at the Amman Marriott Hotel — 10:30 a.m.

FILM

- * A Soviet film entitled "Dangerous Journey" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Saturday receives Australian Minister of Science Barry Jones in Amman. Also present is Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Kabariy (Petra photo)

Jordan, Australia discuss tourism and archaeology

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office Saturday the visiting Australian Minister of Science Barry Jones and discussed with him cooperation between Australia and Jordan in tourism and archaeological affairs.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, discussion covered cooperation in excavation at historical sites and the restoration of archaeological places. Present at the meeting were Minister of Tourism Abdul

Karim Al Kabariy and Australian Ambassador to Jordan Robert Bowker.

The Australian minister, accompanied by the minister of tourism and other officials Friday visited the Nabatean city of Petra in southern Jordan, and on

Thursday made a tour of the Greco Roman site of Pella (Tabaqat Fahl), in the northern Jordan Valley, and was briefed on excavations conducted there by an Australian archaeological mission in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities.

BAD FOODSTUFF DESTROYED: The Zarqa Health Department has destroyed bad foodstuffs from 1,275 establishments during 2,168 tours health officers undertook in the city. The department director told Jordan News Agency, Petra, that 848 tests have been conducted on water samples to make sure that water is free from pollution. (Petra)

Cabinet to debate draft policy statement by end of the week

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government draft policy statement prepared by a ministerial committee chaired by Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh is expected to be debated by the cabinet at the end of the week, according to a report by Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The paper said that the committee, which also groups minis-

ters of public works and housing, information, culture, Awqaf and Islamic affairs, municipal and rural affairs and the minister of state for parliamentary affairs, has based the policy statement on His Majesty King Hussein's directives to the new government of Mr. Mudar Badran, and the reply to the letter of designation to the government.

In accordance with Article 54 of the Jordanian Constitution, the cabinet has 30 days in which to prepare its policy statement which will be submitted to parliament to win a vote of confidence. The Lower House of Parliament, elected in a general election on Nov. 8 will debate the policy statement before taking the vote.

Jordan to attend UNESCO seminar on protection of wildlife reserves

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has organised a two week seminar on the management and protection of wildlife reserves in the Arab World which will open in Doha, Qatar Sunday.

Jordan is taking part in the seminar, which is being attended by 25 participants from various Arab countries, according to a spokesman for the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Mr. Khaled Irani, RSCN assistant director, who is attending the seminar, will submit a working paper to the meeting on Jordan's endeavours to protect wildlife, to repatriate species of animals

threatened with extinction and to protect the environment and nature in general.

Irani said in a predeparture statement that the meeting is designed to provide the participants with skills and means to help them protect wildlife in national parks and the environment of the Arab World.

Jordan has set up seven wildlife reserves in the Kingdom — Shomari, Wadi Al Mujib, Zubay, Rum, Dana and Azraq Desert and the Azraq Oasis.

One of these reserves, Shomari, has been under consideration by world organisations concerned with the conservation of nature to be transformed into a centre for

conducting scientific research to produce improved breeds of animals threatened with extinction and to supply animals to the Arab countries in the region, according to an earlier statement by the RSCN Director Anis Muasher.

Some of the animals threatened with extinction — the ibex, the fallow deer and the oryx — have been repatriated to their natural habitat in Jordan's reserves over the past few years with assistance and financing from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); the reserves have been receiving gifts of such species from Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Oman and other countries.

Minister praises WHO efforts to promote primary health care

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben Saturday voiced Jordan's deep appreciation of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) efforts to promote primary health care in the developing nations and its special attention to the occupational health.

"WHO continues to give help to the developing countries in the field of educating workers in matters related to health protection and the improvement of occupational conditions for workers," the minister said at the opening of a two-week training seminar for 18 physicians employed by the Health Ministry's primary health

care centres. The seminar organised by the WHO in cooperation with the Health Ministry is being attended by doctors from the public and private sectors.

Industrial development in Jordan should be accompanied by a similar level of endeavours to protect workers and provide occupational health safety precautions for all those involved in industrial work, the minister noted.

Acting from this concept, the Ministry of Health has dispatched groups of Jordanian doctors abroad to specialise in occupational health safety, and in 1981

established a special branch dealing with occupational health in Amman, Irbid, Salt, Aqaba and Zarqa, the minister added.

The opening session was also addressed by Dr. Ma'moun Ma'abre, director of the ministry's Primary Health Care Services, who underlined the importance of training for doctors to orient them on means of dealing with occupational hazards.

The participants will be oriented on protection for workers from dangers resulting from handling dangerous chemicals, from occupational illnesses and the treatment of affected workers.

Team goes ahead with plans to set up cancer treatment centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — A national team charged with the task of establishing a National Cancer Treatment Centre in Jordan is going ahead with plans to set up the centre at the Jordan University Hospital; the project is expected to be carried out in two stages, according to Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib a member of the national team and president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

The present services offered to cancer patients in Jordan are far from being satisfactory, Khatib noted in a statement quoted by Al Dustour Arabic daily on the eve of the first team's meeting Saturday to review preparations for the projected centre.

Khatib, who is a team member,

quoted a statistical bulletin by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which reported the presence of 8,500 cancer cases in Jordan, increasing in number every year due to the increase in the average life expectancy in the Kingdom.

The establishment of a cancer centre in Jordan has become a national necessity, and integrated services for cancer patients must be made available to all public sectors, Khatib noted.

The JD 6 million project, Khatib pointed out, will have to be carried out in two stages. The first entails the construction of the outpatient clinics, units for housing the equipment and conducting examinations, as well as the purchase of equipment, Khatib said.

The second stage, he noted, entails the creation of interior sections to accommodate 120 beds, the installation of laboratories for diagnosing the disease and other pertinent tasks.

Each stage, he added, will cost JD 3 million. Apart from providing necessary treatment, Khatib said, the centre will offer advice to patients and their families, and will provide guidance to the public about cancer and its treatment.

Khatib said that the project is being financed through donations from Arab and friendly nations. The national team is entrusted with following up contacts for the creation of the projected centre and organising fund-raising campaigns here and abroad.

Symposium opens on changes in family life Technology, population explosion affect family

AMMAN (J.T.) — Changes to family life in the Middle East came under scrutiny Saturday at a three-day symposium organised by the Jordanian Voluntary Organisation's community centres in Amman in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of West Germany, and held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Speakers at the opening session singled out technology and population explosion as being the main elements affecting family and social life in the Arab World, and called for attention to be diverted to the adverse results of these changes.

He said that adverse effects resulting from the changes included: drug addiction, homelessness, the increase in divorce cases and unemployment; all of which cause serious psychological problems within the family and the society at large.

University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra, who stood in for Prince Hassan at the opening session, stressed that the changes in social life in the Arab World was an inevitable result of the population explosion and the revolution in knowledge brought about by the introduction of modern technology.

"The revolution of knowledge has swept all societies in the Middle East and left behind some positive and some negative results that ought to be handled by governments and various concerned organisations," Samra added.

The family, which is the nucleus of society, has been at the centre of change caused by these modern developments and its members have naturally been affected by the change," Samra noted.

His views were echoed by Dr. Sari Naser, head of the University of Jordan's Sociology Department, who noted that the modern media as well as technology and modern education have been instrumental in bringing about deep changes in society and social problems.

"The department students have set up two community development centres in two poor districts of Amman, not only to help improve the life of the local residents, but also to monitor changes in society," Dr. Nasser said.

Dr. Robert Duberson from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation presented his ideas in an address to the opening session, stressing the need for the protection of family life and human rights.

Dr. Zainab Shahin, assistant professor at the Social Develop-

ment Research Centre in Cairo, submitted a working paper to the first session focusing attention on three samples of families in the Arab World: Those with a working woman, a housewife who does not go out to work and a woman who has lost a husband and shoulders the responsibility of raising a family.

More than 60 delegates attending the symposium came from Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon.

According to the organisers, the delegates will submit papers dealing with family changes in their own countries.

They said in a statement on the eve of the symposium that the meeting will look into social difficulties jeopardising the family structure as well as its traditional functions.

They said that planning for the future of society in the developing world is still out forthcoming and it is difficult for government decision-makers to face the new demands made on the state of the society.

The symposium, they added, is being organised to help analyse the changes in society and its institutions, with special focus on women and proposed solutions for problems.

Observers attending the meetings came from Germany, Denmark and Turkey as well as universities from Jordan and the occupied Arab territories.



Lawzi receives more congratulations

AMMAN — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Saturday separately received Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Isma'il, United Nations Development Programme coordinator in Amman Dr. Ali Atiqah, and Pakistani charge

d'affaires in Amman Mohammad Wahid Al Hassan who congratulated him on his re-appointment as speaker. The photograph shows Lawzi with the Iraqi ambassador (Petra photo)

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366
Telex: 21497 ALRA1 JO
Facsimile: 661242

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Supercomputers vs. super wisdom

PERSISTENT reports from Washington that it is on the verge of approving the export of supercomputers to Israel are very disturbing. For one thing, such supercomputers, whether for civilian or military use, would provide Israel with the know-how to produce its ultimate weapon, the thermonuclear bomb. What is even more troubling is the apparent link being made between Israel's shallow acceptance of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan for initial Palestinian-Israeli talks and the delivery of such awesome technology to Tel Aviv. It is unfortunate that Israel always gets away with its repeated ploys to give a conditional, superficial or even tactical acceptance of some American initiative or another only to help it acquire some urgently needed economic or military assistance from the U.S. With all evidence indicating that Israel's involvement in the Baker plan being only tactical, the U.S.-Israeli deal about the so-called Gray supercomputer destined to be deployed by the Haifa Technion should cause a great deal of concern in the Arab World.

A concerted diplomatic Arab effort must be exerted, therefore, as a matter of highest priority to thwart Israel's determination to acquire supercomputers from the U.S. Washington must also be served with an immediate notice that any licensing of the export of such technology to Israel would mean that the U.S. entertains hostile intentions towards the entire Arab World and that the true purpose of offering the concerned Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts a peace plan is just to take them for a ride.

As there is already fear that the Baker's plan could end up being an open ended process, which Tel Aviv intends to exploit to the maximum, there would be nothing more damaging to the U.S. initiative than to couple it with the export of such dangerous technology that would surely open the way for Israel to acquire thermonuclear weapons. It is bad enough that Israel already possesses nuclear weapons, any acquisition of thermonuclear bombs would leave Israel with no incentive whatsoever to negotiate peace on the basis of any plan. Surely Washington knows that with the advent of the era of rocketry and other forms of mass destructive weapons to the Middle East it would be suicidal to augment the spiral of super technology armament in the region by giving Israel access to the ultimate destructive weapon, the thermonuclear bomb.

Time is ripe for restraint and for pushing forward the peace process as fast as possible lest it becomes outstripped by the introduction of super modern weaponry that could only trigger the lust for armed conflicts in the region. What Israel needs now is not supercomputer but rather super wisdom from its allies and friends. For as long as peace in the Middle East remains elusive, the alternative will always be the resort to wars to settle the score.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday discussed a mission now being carried out by Prince Hassan abroad, describing it as yet another Jordanian endeavour to win further support for the Palestinian and Arab causes. The paper recalled that the Prince has already met with the ambassadors of the U.N. Security Council members to discuss Middle East issues and has started a visit to Britain on a similar mission, benefiting from the current relaxed international political situation and the East-West détente. Indeed Jordan has been spearheading all Arab efforts on the international scene, not only to win support for Arab causes, but also to confront Israel's aggressive policies and to urge the international community to undertake serious efforts to resolve the various conflicts in the Arab area, the paper pointed out. It said that the Crown Prince has been urging heads of governments in Europe and the United States to transform the current ceasefire in the Gulf region into permanent peace and to help the Lebanese people avoid further bloodshed and restore security to their country. Let us hope that the Jordanian moves on the international level will bear fruit and prompt the world community to help us enjoy the aspired peace, the paper concluded.

Al Dustour daily newspaper heaped praise on the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran for taking bold measures designed to bolster the spirit of democracy and freedom in Jordan. The paper referred in particular to a decision for reversing a 1987 government decision, banning the Jordan Writers Association. The association has worked for 14 years to stimulate the literary and cultural movement in the Kingdom despite its meagre resources and limited means, thus contributing to pan-Arab culture; and it is only right and fair to resurrect the association's activities to serve the rising generation, said the paper. The revoking of the 1987 decision will no doubt pave the way for a rebirth of intellect and a restoration of confidence among Jordanian writers and intellectuals, the paper added. The paper said that the restoration of the association was only one more link in a long series of decisions taken by the government to enhance the atmosphere of freedom and liberal and political action in the new era of Jordan's democratic life.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily attacked in an editorial Saturday a statement by Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in which he ruled out any Israeli contacts with what he termed as extreme elements in the intifada. In his statement just before his visit to the United States, Arens made it clear that Israel was only determined to talk with a selected group of its own choice, a move strongly opposed by the PLO and the Arab Nation, the paper noted. It said that such a position is no different from that of Yitzhak Shamir who openly seeks to establish Jordan as the substitute homeland for the Palestinians. Shamir and his government are trying to present the world with ideas only suitable for the Zionists and can only serve the objectives and aims of the Jewish state, the paper added. It said that despite the ongoing efforts to make the Shamir plans palatable to the Arabs, one can only conclude that the Israeli position is intransigent and characterised by the Zionist nature of racism.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

A major reform of customs duty

The Ministry of Finance have finally come up with the promised package of reforms for customs duties.

By releasing the package, Jordan has accomplished all its obligations and commitments for 1989, under the re-structuring programme, agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

To sweeten the package, and enable the treasury to absorb the consequences of the transitional period, the IMF and World Bank provided a soft loan of \$150 million to finance eligible imports.

The main features of the tax reform related to imported and locally produced goods are as follows:

1. The scale of tax duty on imported commodities was simplified by reducing the number of rates applicable to various categories of imports. From now on, rates will be 5 per cent or a multiple thereof. Rates ranging between 23 and 27 per cent for instance will be replaced by 25 per cent, and rates ranging between 38 and 42 per cent will become 40 per cent and so on.
2. With very little exceptions, all imported commodities will be charged the minimum rate of 5 per cent. Full exemption of tax

duty is now confined to basic foodstuffs monopolised by the Ministry of Supplies, and crude oil.

3. The variations between the minimum and maximum rates were reduced. In general, taxes now range between a minimum of 5 per cent and a maximum of 60 per cent. The goods which were considered luxurious and banned since November 1988 will have to pay higher taxes to minimise the volume of their imports.

4. When the government has reasons to charge a commodity by over 60 per cent, the locally produced equivalent will be charged with the excess, so that the net protection enjoyed by local products will not exceed 60 per cent.

5. When the government wishes to impose a higher tax in excess of 60 per cent, the extra tax has to be in the form of consumption tax or any of the variety of value added tax.

6. Fixed customs duty per unit was converted into a percentage. Thus the tax will vary with price changes.

The economic objectives which will be served by this rather radical reform are:

First: The extension of reasonable but not excessive protection

in favour of domestic production. If 60 per cent were not enough to protect a certain product from foreign competition, then the economics of production and its very feasibility should be revised. Such uneconomic production, if any, should be abandoned for another activity.

Second: Securing more revenue to the treasury as an indirect tax, people will have to pay tax when they spend their income, not when they earn it.

Third: The neutralisation of custom duty to the extent possible, so that it operates as a financing tool not as an incentive to shift production from unprotected sectors like agriculture and food production, to protected sectors like industry and luxurious items.

Fourth: Taxes will become more flexible and respond to fluctuations of inflation and exchange rate. Tax proceeds will rise with inflation and higher prices, to maintain real value.

The customs duty reform and the introduction of consumption tax for the first time, represent a substantial reform. Prices of many commodities will be altered up or down as a result, but by small percentages. Consumer prices will become more related to the cost of imports.

By Stephen Hughes
Reuters

RABAT—Muslim fundamentalist leader Abd Assalam Yassine says his movement is gathering momentum in Morocco but rules out revolt as the road to an Islamic state.

"We are against violence of any kind. This is a basic principle," the soft-spoken Yassine told Reuters.

"The image of the Muslim with a knife between his teeth is a Western caricature. We represent the Islam of the wise...We are universal missionaries, not fanatics."

A recent spate of arrests, however, showed that after tolerating Yassine's group, Al Adl Wa Al Ihsane, for years under close surveillance, the authorities are growing alarmed at its appeal to the young.

In Morocco, a modernised Muslim monarchy at the western end of the Arab World, mainstream fundamentalists are more modest in their aims than radicals in other countries who reject the basic systems of government under which they live.

Yassine says he accepts King Hassan's authority as Amir Al Moummineen (commander of the faithful) and a descendant of the Prophet, which "makes Morocco quite unique in the Islamic world."

But he is fiercely against Western culture, which he considers barbarous and egotistical, calls for strict application of Islamic law, and questions the king's cosmopolitan lifestyle.

He was detained without trial for three years in the 1970s for sending a 114-page letter to the palace and government criticising them for disregarding Islamic precepts and aping Western ways.

A tall, slim 61-year-old patriarch with a straggly grey beard who always smiles when asked a question, Yassine told Reuters: "All we want is our share of justice and democracy, freedom of expression and movement."

"We rely on the people's choice. Our ambition is to get into power by popular consent." All 10 Moroccan political parties claimed to be Islamic—even the Communists—he said in a recent interview at his modest home near Rabat, which is watched by police around the clock. The people should be allowed to choose between "hypocritical Islam and true Islam."

Two more radical Islamic groups were outlawed in Morocco in 1984 and 1985 for plotting to

overthrow the monarchy and set up an Islamic republic. Thirteen activists were sentenced to death although none has been executed.

Early this month, 24 of Yassine's followers, including 19 teachers, stood trial in the southern city of Taroudant for belonging to an illegal organisation and holding unauthorised meetings.

Seventeen were jailed for terms varying from a month to a year. The movement said the meetings were religious discussions in private homes.

Yassine said his group applied for official authorisation in 1982 but had received no response. "So we are not free like the other parties."

He said the movement is barred from preaching or meeting in the country's 21,000 mosques and is now being increasingly harassed when members gather in private.

Nevertheless, he says, Al Adl Wa Al Ihsane has a big following

among students and widespread support from teachers, dominating Moroccan campuses on which agitation by Communists and Socialists led to strikes and violence in the 1960s and 70s.

"We think the authorities allowed our influence to grow to counter leftist influences in the universities," he said.

Yassine's supporters are mostly young and drawn from all segments of society.

Diplomats say there has been a general disaffection with traditional parties among the young. Sixty-five per cent of Morocco's 25 million people are under the age of 35.

"All those youngsters milling around out there with no jobs or prospects are a potential threat, so the king has to be on his guard," a political analyst said.

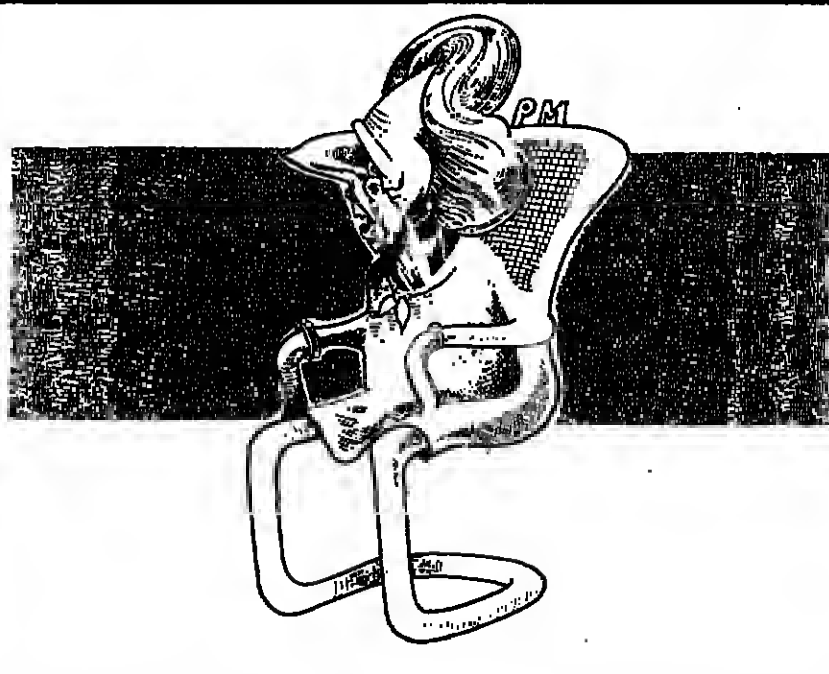
Communist activist Nadir Yata says fundamentalism's main appeal is that it is "an alternative to lack of bread and work, a consolation or a refuge from hardship."

But King Hassan's prestige as both temporal and spiritual leader of his people is still a great counterweight to any Islamic challenge.

He founded the Islamic Conference Organisation linking over 40 Islamic states in 1969 and is building a monumental mosque in Casablanca at a cost of over \$360 million.

"They say it is the biggest (mosque) in the world," Yassine said. "We are pleased to have it. We would like to be able to preach and pray in it, if they ever let us."

Moroccan islamicist forswears revolt



Is Britain's 'iron lady' melting?

By Peter Gregson
Reuters

LONDON—A new mellowness in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's tone may be the first sign that the "iron lady" is melting.

It came into her voice at international conferences and in parliament during recent weeks as the British leader was rocked by one of the most bruising periods of her time in office.

With her Conservative Party trailing the opposition Labour Party by 10 to 15 points in opinion polls, cabinet colleagues put pressure on Thatcher to ease the autocratic style that has been a past strength but is increasingly seen as a political liability.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said bluntly in a recent interview that the government had to change its style to win the next general election. In a clear reference to Thatcher, he added that it must listen and persuade more and there must be greater collective decision-making.

Hurd was speaking after a string of setbacks which included Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's resignation, the party's defeat in June's elections to the European Parliament and an opinion poll which rated Thatcher the least popular British prime minister in 50 years.

An unprecedented challenge to

Thatcher's 14-year leadership of the Conservative Party in early December fuelled the calls for change and jolted her authority when nearly one in six Conservative members of parliament failed to back her.

On the day she flew to Strasbourg for last week's EC summit, Thatcher unusually allowed the cabinet to discuss policy towards Europe in detail. The discussion was kicked off by Hurd and his proposed plan of action for Strasbourg unanimously approved.

That strategy was for Thatcher, the table-thumping scourge of past EC summits, to avoid confrontation.

She stated British objections to important proposals on monetary and social issues in a determined, but low-key way.

Although she was again in a minority of one in both cases, Thatcher's manner was so ebullient that French President Francois Mitterrand led an impromptu round of applause for her cooperative approach.

Afterwards, she quietly rebutted a suggestion that she was out of step with her European partners with a demure: "That's a bit of a hysterical question."

Asked about her attitude during the talks, Thatcher, 64, smiled and quipped: "Constructive as always."

It was a sharp contrast from six months earlier, when Thatcher

and Mitterrand verbally sniped at each other in post-summit news conferences over who was most isolated from the rest of the 12-member community.

The challenge to Thatcher's leadership focused attention on her domineering manner but was launched principally in protest at her perceived hostility towards the European Community.

A senior Thatcher aide conceded her change of tack since then was a deliberate move "to get rid of the 'anti-European' label that has been pinned unfairly on her. If that has spill-over benefits in other areas, so much the better."

Hurd said in Strasbourg that Thatcher had begun a process to "articulate" more clearly the European feelings of "about 95 per cent of the people within the Conservative Party."

Thatcher poured more oil on her often-troubled relations with the EC in parliament on Tuesday, praising Mitterrand's "skilful, courteous and effective chairmanship" of the meeting.

It has been in parliament that Thatcher's new, softer style has been most evident.

Britain's centuries-old House of Commons admitted television cameras for the first time in late November and Thatcher's twice-weekly question time has since been broadcast live.

In the past, those sessions often

developed into a bad-tempered slanging match with opposition leader Neil Kinnock.

She secretly rehearsed in the chamber before the broadcasts began. "That's not good enough at all," an official present said.

Thatcher commented after seeing a playback of her first practice at the despatch box. "We're going to have to change that."

She resolved to stand more upright and speak more softly after monitors showed her head-down stance and strident delivery did not come over well on television.

An opinion poll in Thursday's Guardian newspaper said Thatcher's new style was winning, ratings war with Kinnock, with 44 per cent of viewers questioned saying she had the better of the televised exchanges to 25 per cent for Kinnock—the remainder ranked them equal or had no views.

It added in an editorial: "The fishwife bark which used to mark her performances has almost disappeared. The new style is courteous, smiling, cajoling... it borders at times on the consensual."

Could that be why she is so far out-pointing Mr. Kinnock?

Conservative Party image makers are also hoping it will help cut Labour's overall opinion poll lead well before the election Thatcher must call by mid-1992.

OPEN FORUM

A child's Christmas wish

Dear Santa,
This is going to be quite a long letter compared to the ones you receive. But please hear me out, for everybody is giving me a deaf ear and the cold shoulder. Time is running out and Christmas is almost here. Having heard that you care for kids and grant their wishes, maybe you can help by adding another parcel in your bag for me.

I would have to direct you where to bring me my present. It is not very difficult. As you leave the boisterous holiday mood in "Rockefeller Centre," and pass over the shimmering holiday decorations in "Trafalgar Square" straight on by the ringing bells and the choir singers of the "Place de la Concorde," a little further on, after you encounter the ebullient mood over the "Berlin Wall," you have to keep going East until you get to the "the little town of Bethlehem". Right in the middle, after your eyes get used to the darkness around, you will get to "the Nativity" square, melancholic, dreary, wet and quiet. Somehow different from the places you'll leave behind. Don't get discouraged for just across the street from where the "Holy Child" was born is where I live.

You can't miss it by the end of the road. You will see a demolished home with part of the roof still standing, (so you don't have to struggle through the once existing chimney). When you get there, a green giant who lives next door will do his utmost to stop you. He hates kids, especially those with free ideas, and always refers to me as "terrorist". Please venture in and savour for yourself some of my mother's well-known warm hospitality, despite the missing bustle of all the people who lived at one time altogether there. You would understand the lack of the decorations and the tree of course. You see, my father is not around to cut it, for all I know he is freezing under one of the tents of a place by the name of "Assur three". Anyway, the children are not around and are unable to decorate it, for as they went out to fly some balloons last week, the green, red, white and black colours they infuriated the giant next door, so many of them ended up with lashed limbs, in comas, missing or dead.

Don't let the meaning of the old man in the corner make you turn away either. He is my grandfather, and I love him. You will too if you get to know him. It is just that the pain of repeated humiliation inflicted upon him by this giant is too much for such a proud man to accept, say more, especially when it is accompanied by threats of changing his address once more. It is much worse than the physical pain he feels in the place of the eye he recently lost while crossing the street, by one of the giant's "rubber bullets."

So you see Santa, as much as I would like to have a whistling choo choo train as Mathews', building bricks and a stocking full of candy canes as Francois, or maybe a nice smooth—ridding sledge as Hans, still all the new bright toys can wait. I would like only one "old" thing. For as young as I am, I took an oath upon myself to light up "the Nativity Square" once more, to bring back the laughter to the kids of my neighbourhood, to fill up my cousin's store in Beit Sahour again, to visit my friends in Nabulus and Gaza freely and without having the giant on my tail trying to crush me down all the time. But more important than all this, is that I promised my grandfather that I would keep him his current address permanently.

So, Dear Santa: would you help? And for this Christmas, wrapped in a simple box of "peace" I would like to have... "my right". Merry Christmas—Your sincerely—Thaer, age 3.

Abd. S. Ibrahim

LETTERS

After leaving posts

To the Editor:

WE should be grateful to ex-President Jimmy Carter for his awakened sense of justice and his championship of human rights in the world in general and in the West Bank and Gaza in particular.

It is indeed deplorable that such kind-hearted feelings and concern are not expressed except when those in authority in the United States of America leave

their posts. Anyhow, "it is better late than never" as the proverb says.

We are indeed grateful, Mr. Carter, hoping your efforts will awaken the conscience of those who exercise authority on Capital Hill, and remind them that there are nobler things than personal interests and the "mighty dollar."

George Khoury
Amman

What flaw?

To the Editor:

I KNOW for sure that you are super and dedicated. I believe in the correctness of what you are doing, both in direction and in substance. Your objectives are excellent. What you have done so far, is excellent. It is well oriented and extremely beneficial. I can feel and see the amount and severity of the obstacles you have overcome. The amount of struggle you have faced from stupid, ignorant and self interested parties and the patience you have shown is a measure in itself of your dedication and capabilities.

But I have noted one flaw in your set up and am sure you have the capacity to be patient with me for putting it for your personal.

It is the oligarchic or authoritarian way you are using to attain or succeed in achieving your excellent objectives.

It will only be fair on my part to first search for some reasonable excuse for your adoption of such methods.

It could be that you are in a hurry, or that your objectives are of an urgent nature. We as Arabs are not accustomed to democratic

and or collective effort. We are individualists. It is difficult to have two or more shepherds for one herd.

If you are one of us, there is no point in going further.

If you firmly believe that we cannot or will not change then carry on.

If you think change is possible but its development and attainment are the responsibility of nature and that nature ways are slow and evolutionary, then why don't you help nature speed-up the process?

Which is more important or beneficial; an investment in a marginal quick profit or in a substantial long term return?

Why don't you concentrate on teaching and advocating for a change. A small step that could expand and accelerate.

You can best preach by working towards and ensuring the successful example self served and self applied. If successful it will be extremely convincing.

If this touches a cord, why don't you start it today?

M. Abu Sam

Features

Vaccines save two million

VACCINES are now saving the lives of two million children a year in the developing world, but three million are still dying from measles, tetanus and whooping cough — diseases which vaccines can prevent. With these figures, UNICEF's 1990 State of the World's Children report sums up the achievement of a decade in which the benefits of immunisation have been brought to the majority of mankind.

Vaccines now reach almost 70 per cent of the Third World's children, up from only 10 per cent at the beginning of the 1980s. "It has been the most dramatic public health advance of the last decade," says UNICEF's Executive Director, James Grant.

Apart from the number of lives saved, there are now an estimated one and a half million children who are running and playing and growing normally in the developing world who would have been crippled by polio were it not for the immunisation efforts of the 1980s.

But because disease is more common among the 30 per cent who are not yet reached, it is essential to press on towards the UN target of 80 per cent by the end of 1990 and to 90 per cent in the early years of the 1990s.

the vaccine-preventable diseases — measles and tetanus — are the two for which immunisation lags farthest behind.

Measles still claims 1.5 million young lives each year and only 60 per cent of the Third World's children are immunised against the disease. "Those deaths are but the mortality tip of a morbid iceberg," says UNICEF, "as other illnesses and malnutrition are up to ten times more common in the months and years following a measles outbreak."

"Measles is therefore one of the single most deadly threats to the children of the 1990s," says the report, "and universal measles immunisation is one of the greatest goals for the next decade."

Immunisation against tetanus also lags behind. Vaccinating pregnant women protects both mothers and new-born infants. But coverage has remained at less than 30 per cent in the developing world as a whole and comparatively little progress has been made in the 1980s. "It is a matter of national and international shame," says Grant, "that something so easily and inexpensively preventable should be killing three quarters of a million infants and many thousands of women each year."

UNICEF, there are now two glaring low cost opportunities for pushing immunisation coverage into the 80 per cent to 90 per cent range. At this point the transmission patterns of some diseases are so disrupted that a degree of protection is conferred even on children who are not immunised.

First, the goal of 80 per cent immunisation could almost certainly be reached in all countries if all children brought to a health clinic, for whatever reason, were screened and vaccinated if necessary. Surveys regularly show that 50 per cent or more of the children who visit clinics for some other purpose are in need of immunisation, but are allowed to leave without being vaccinated.

In most immunisation programmes, getting the child to the clinic is more than half the battle: failure to immunise those who do come is therefore a waste of a golden opportunity.

The second low-cost way of boosting coverage is to reduce the alarmingly high drop-out rates between the first and third doses of vaccine. "If all children who receive a first dose were to complete the full course of vaccines," says the UNICEF report, "then the 80 per cent target would already be reached in most nations."

Stressing that demand for immunisation is as important as the

supply, UNICEF believes that the approach known as "social mobilisation" is the way to make sure that all parents appreciate the urgent need for a full course of vaccines during the first year of a child's life. This approach, which has succeeded in doubling or even tripling immunisation coverage in several countries during the 1980s, involves mobilising all of a society's organised resources — its schools and mass media, its religious leaders and voluntary organisations, its businesses and trade unions, its women's organisations and community groups, its entertainment and advertising industries — to put vital health information, such as the need for immunisation, at the disposal of all citizens.

Political commitment

In the 1990s, immunisation programmes in many countries face an uphill struggle because of cut-backs in health services caused by the debt crisis. But some countries have been able to finance nationwide immunisation programmes merely by postponing the building of one city hospital. "The 1980s have shown," says the report, "that high coverage can be achieved even in the poorest nations and even in the most difficult of economic times."

In evidence, the report points out that 41 out of the 46 low-income African countries have sharply accelerated their immunisation efforts over the last five years despite that continent's serious economic difficulties. Similarly China, still among the poorest twenty countries in the world, has pushed its immunisation coverage to over 95 per cent nationwide.

The mainspring of immunisation's expansion in the 1980s, believes UNICEF, has been high level political commitment to the cause. "It is safe to say," says Grant, "that never before have so many presidents, prime ministers and senior political leaders been personally involved in the promotion of a public health initiative."

Strengthening that high level commitment to immunisation is one of the purposes of the World Summit for Children which UNICEF has called for and which is now likely to be held in Sept. of 1990.

"Universal immunisation can be achieved," says Grant, "and the lives of 3 million more children can be saved. It is not now a question of whether it is physically or financially possible; it is a question of whether there is the political commitment at the highest levels to see the task through" — UNICEF feature.



A husband seeks help for his wife — a tetanus victim and almost certainly dying. Immunisation in pregnancy can protect both mothers and new borns. "It is a matter of national and international shame," says UNICEF, "that something so easily and inexpensively preventable should still be killing more than three quarters of a million infants and many thousands of young women each year."

something so easily and inexpensively preventable should still be killing more than three quarters of a million infants and many thousands of young women each year."

Two killers

The two biggest killers among

Missed opportunities
In almost all countries, says

By Clare Pedrick

Art benefits world

More than 160 artists eyes have joined forces to stage a unique exhibition whose proceeds will go toward protecting the environment in the developing world.

Painters, sculptors and graphic designers from Italy and other countries have donated almost 200 pieces to the show, titled "Arte e Ambiente" (Art and Environment), currently on display at Rome's Museum of the Future in the Palazzo delle Esposizioni.

After the exhibition closes later this year, all the proceeds will go under the name of the "Fondo Ambiente Italiano" (FAI) to fund projects in the developing world, all of them with an ecological focus.

For example, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), for which the exhibition has been launched, has a project with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as part of its fight against hunger and poverty.

retain water. The slash-and-burn approach to farming also destroys the very wood that the farmers need for cooking. In Africa alone, an estimated 55 million people are acutely short of fuelwood, according to FAO statistics.

"Deforestation creates a vicious cycle, spreading destruction like a slow-motion tornado," Director-General Saouma commented.

FAO officials in charge of the organisation's environment programme came up with the idea of the Rome exhibit as a way to generate cash for projects and at the same time to publicise the environmental issue.

Most of the artists who donated works to the show are Italian, among them internationally renowned artists such as painters Pietro Annigoni, Antonio Corpora and Luigi Sassu and sculptors Jorio Vivarelli and Alik Cavaliere. Participating artists from other countries include Poland's Janusz Haka, Yugoslav sculptor Djon Antonij, West German painter Annemarie Asam, American sculptor Paul Bowden and Bulgarian painter Alek Mishev.

Nigeria is represented by four artists: Benjamin Olatunji, Yemi Ojo, Kumi Adegborioye and Segun Ogunmbi.

even one tree, then it will have been worthwhile."

The works that will be auctioned off are priced from 200,000 lire to 80 million lire (\$150 to \$59,000), and FAO officials are hoping that the auction will raise \$375,000. That amount would finance at least five projects in various developing countries.

"We're aiming at one project in each region of the Third World, all of them concentrating on the environment," said German Rojas, one of the organisers of the fund-raising event. "They won't be mega-projects, but small-scale ventures, each costing around \$75,000, the idea being to choose schemes which will have a direct impact on the small farmers and which will continue to have an impact long after we have left."

One plan under consideration is the promotion of the use of traditional food plants in Peru and Bolivia and in some East and West African countries where indigenous staples have been neglected in favour of imported foods. FAO teams will help farmers plant crops traditionally grown on the land and teach them how to cultivate the crops using only minimal amounts of fertilizers and pesticides.

"This abandoning of traditional foodstuffs can be the result of colonisation or a whole host of other reasons," said Rojas. "We will be trying to convince small farmers that their own produce is nutritionally superior to varieties that are imported. We'll be teaching the people how to prepare food with the crops, how to make a selection of the seeds according to the type of land being cultivated, and how to harvest and store when the time is ready. The whole idea is to improve their food security (while) causing the minimum possible damage to the soil and the environment."

In Bangladesh, a country that suffers the twin scourges of widespread drought and serious flooding, FAO officials hope to launch a water-regulation project. "In the areas where it is very dry, the soil loses its fertility," Rojas explained. "In the areas prone to flooding, the top layer of the soil is washed away, and this is the part which has most of the organic goodness (nutrients). Our idea is to create a system where the quantity of water will be permanent and constant."

Another project aims to use

tree-planting as a way of halting the process of desertification in the Sahel region of northern Africa. "The problem is how to stop the advance of the desert towards the south, and our plan is to identify the right kind of tree, whose planting will simultaneously restore the soil's fertility and halt the process of soil erosion," Rojas said. "The trees we are aiming to plant will provide an alternative source of fuel-wood, but will also be a source of food for the people — the palm tree is the most obvious example."

As a spinoff from the project, relief workers say they hope to see a drop in the large number of rural dwellers currently uprooting themselves and their families and heading for a new life in the cities.

"The idea is to improve prospects for the peasant communities who are being forced to move to the urban areas where they end up being just as poor, if not worse," said Rojas. "We are trying to give a new value to agriculture in the developing world, since we know that these countries' wealth lies in this sector. Unfortunately, agriculture has become a synonym with poverty and backwardness, but we want to increase governments' awareness of this area and of the need to give it a higher priority and greater security." — World News Link.

Team heads for Antarctica

ALTHOUGH many countries continue for religious or cultural reasons to restrict the role of women in society, few areas of male dominance remain to be breached in the West.

There, career women now command respect throughout industry, commerce and the professions — as judges, entrepreneurs, and even as heads of government. And as women fill more and more unlikely jobs, another barrier is about to be broken, a Special Correspondent writes.

Nine West German women have taken up the challenge of spending 14 months in conditions of unimaginable hardship and isolation — six metres down in Antarctic ice, where the mean temperature is minus 46 deg. C and above them blizzards reach up to 180 kilometres per hour.

It is not just an exercise to prove that women are the equal of men in such conditions, for all

the women have high levels of scientific and technical training and are capable of carrying out a full programme of observation and research at West Germany's Antarctic base camp.

But the fact that the women are going at all, replacing on merit ten, successive, all-male teams, is a remarkable gain.

Even four years ago, when 30-year-old geophysicist Monika Sobiesiak first began to seek support among adventurous women scientists for an Antarctic team, the changes of success seemed remote.

Women did not even apply for such postings. Moreover, two steel living tubes hurled in ice were considered no place for a lady.

Yet Frau Sobiesiak found no shortage of female interest in the scheme, and West Germany's Research Minister, Heinz Riesenhuber, who finally

approved the expedition, found it remarkable that so many fully qualified women had applied.

Perhaps even more remarkable, however, was that husbands and partners raised no objections. Domestic problems were uncomplicated as none of the women, whose ages range from 27 to 33, has a child.

Before leaving for Antarctica, the team will have spent several months in mountain endurance tests and in handling the equipment used at the base camp. Equally importantly, this time will have enabled the women to tackle one of the hardest problems of prolonged isolation in cramped conditions — that of living together amicably in complete interdependence.

As there is no prior example, only time will tell whether women are better than men at suffering their own company for months on end — Lions features.

"Hunger, poverty and malnutrition inevitably lead to a degrading deterioration of the environment, which in turn leads to a depletion of natural resources," said Italy's environment minister, Giorgio Napolitano, who opened the exhibit.

"We have to break this vicious circle if we want to avoid a catastrophe in the years to come. It is the duty of every country to help the rest of the world to take care of its environment by itself."

Added FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma: "The whole world must be involved in this effort to preserve and protect our precious environment. Not only must we be concerned about the air we breathe or the water we drink, we must also ensure a steady and safe supply of food for all people. Without sustainable management of our environment, this will not be possible."

Experts at FAO headquarters in Rome say that damage to the environment now constitutes one of the most serious problems facing the developing world. As the world's population swells, people are using more and more desperate measures to exploit the land and other limited natural resources.

In an effort to feed themselves, people all over Africa, Asia and Latin America are destroying millions of acres of forests each year as they clear new land for cultivation. The benefits are short-lived. Deforestation leads to desertification as the wind blows away the thin topsoil and reduces the earth's capacity to

The artists' styles span the entire range of contemporary art, from realism and neo-realism to abstract, pop art and neo-expressionism. A painting donated by Italian artist Mario Rosselli portrays two moments in the life of a tree. A piece by Alik Cavaliere, one of Italy's most innovative sculptors, is a pop-art rendering of a garbage bin, filled with old cans of Coca-Cola and tuna fish, titled "FAO, Hunger and the Fate of Feeding in Today's World." A work by 32-year-old Nigerian artist Segun Ogunmbi, one of Africa's most promising young artists, is an abstract painting of an elephant with the eyes and head of a bird.

"All styles of contemporary art are represented here, and the quality of the contributions is extremely high," said Enzo Rosselli, who donated a sculpture titled "Dynamic Presence" to the exhibit.

Added Sicilian-abstract artist Salvatore Proino, "I think all of us are delighted to have been able to do something to help safeguard the environment in the developing world, which is, after all, such a serious problem. Even if our work helps save just one life, or

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Painting by Nigerian artist Segun Ogunmbi

Yemen leader urges oil sales tax to back Palestinian uprising

SANAA (AP) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh has proposed that Arab states earmark 50 cents from the sale of every barrel of oil they export to bolster the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza, officials said Saturday.

He was quoted as telling a meeting of Arab labour ministers that "if circumstances do not permit" supporting the uprising with men, "then let it be with political stances and money... let it be 20 cents, 25 cents, or half a dollar on each barrel of crude oil that is exported."

North Yemen and neighbouring South Yemen were the main

sanctuaries for many of the 8,000 Palestinian fighters forced out of Beirut by Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Many have filtered back into South Lebanon.

Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in the Gulf and Libya and Algeria in North Africa are among major oil producers.

Both Yemens have also struck

oil in recent years and are potentially major producers and exporters. Industry experts anticipate their oil reserves could be as high as one billion barrels each.

Arab countries in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) produce 13.5 million barrels of oil a day under output quotas.

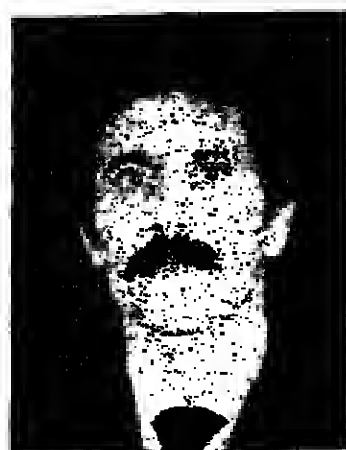
If they agreed to Saleh's proposal, that would involve around \$6.75 million a day for the uprising by 1.7 million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

An Arab League summit in Algiers in June 1988 pledged a one-time payment of \$128 million for the uprising plus \$43 million a

month as long as it lasted.

But the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), acknowledged by the Arab League as the Palestinians' sole representative, has repeatedly complained that apart from Saudi Arabia, Arab countries have only provided about one-third of the pledged aid for the uprising.

The Sanaa officials said Saleh made his proposal a few days after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat visited North Yemen and told Arab ambassadors at a Palestinian rally: "Perhaps we should change the name of Jerusalem to Jalalabad, then the Arab states might help us."



Ali Abdullah Saleh

Palestinians and hardline Arab commentators have complained that the Arabs do more to back Muslim rebels in Afghanistan — currently fighting Soviet-backed government forces around the city of Jalalabad — than the Palestinians' quest for a homeland.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Egypt pays \$2b in debt service

CAIRO (R) — Egypt paid \$2 billion in one year in debt servicing, Prime Minister Ataf Sedki has said. Sedki told reporters the \$2 billion was paid during the fiscal year 1988/89 which ended June 30. He also said Egypt's imports exceeded exports by 50 per cent. A third of the imports were foodstuffs, Sedki added without giving figures. Egypt, the most populous Arab state, has a \$50 billion foreign debt and often runs out of hard currency to meet debt repayment deadlines. It must repay the United States \$50 million of military credits in the next few days or risk suspension of American aid, economists said. According to the Brooke Amendment, Washington, which gives Cairo some \$2.3 billion a year in economic and military assistance, can freeze aid to countries which fall behind more than a year in servicing their debt.

U.S. trade deficit soars to \$10.2b

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. foreign merchandise trade deficit soared to \$10.2 billion in October, the biggest imbalance in 10 months, as imports climbed to a record level, the government said Friday. In brighter economic news, wholesale prices, held down by a sharp drop in gasoline prices, dipped 0.1 per cent in November for the third decline in five months, the government said. Meanwhile, U.S. industrial production edged up 0.1 per cent in November, rebounding from the effects of the Boeing aircraft strike and the San Francisco bay-area earthquake a month earlier, the U.S. Federal Reserve Board reported. The Commerce Department said the October foreign trade deficit was 19.8 per cent higher than the September imbalance of \$8.51 billion. The worsening trade balance reflected a big jump in imports, which climbed 5.1 per cent, to an all-time high of \$41.21 billion. U.S. exports were also up, by 1.1 per cent, rising to \$31.01 billion. The trade deficit is the difference between imports and exports.

Jaguar unveils 'exciting project'

LONDON (AP) — Jaguar PLC says it will start producing a limited edition of a super-fast and super-expensive car it hailed as its most exciting project for more than 20 years. The car, the XJ220, will attain speeds of over 200 mph (320 kph), and will cost more than £360,000 (\$576,000), Jaguar said. Chairman Sir John Egan said that excitement about the car matched that which surrounded the launch of Jaguar's D-type in the 1950s. "It is a very interesting project and could herald a pattern for the future," he said. The concept model was first revealed at the international motor show last year, and consumer interest was so strong that Jaguar believes it is assured of getting buyers for an initial production of 220 cars. Output could increase to a maximum of 350 cars, if demand is strong enough, said the chairman of the British car maker, which is being acquired by Ford Motor Co. for \$2.5 billion.

EC clinches textile accord with Soviets

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) will open up its market to more textiles from the Soviet Union under a three-year deal agreed in principle but subject to formal ratification, an EC spokesman has said. "It's a three-year accord providing for a considerable boost to exports to the Community," he said. The 12-nation bloc currently imports some 10,000 tonnes of textile goods a year from the Soviet Union. The accord could allow in up to 48,000 tonnes. The EC executive commission plans to ask Community foreign ministers to let the accord go ahead in practice from Jan. 1, pending formal signing. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is to sign a wide-ranging 10-year trade and cooperation accord with the Community next Monday during an EC foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels.

Iranian ports become active

NICOSIA (R) — Eight million tonnes of goods were unloaded at Iran's ports in the past eight months, 52 per cent more than in the same period last year, an Iranian official has said. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Mohammad Madad, director of the ports and shipping organisation, as saying 768,000 tonnes of goods were exported from Iranian ports in the same period. The capacity of Iran's ports will rise to 28 million tonnes per year from the current 16 million under the forthcoming five-year plan expected to be approved by parliament soon, IRNA quoted Madad as saying. Gulf ports handle the bulk of Iran's imports, which totalled 15.3 million tonnes in the year to March 1988. The major ports were devastated in the eight-year Gulf war with Iraq which came to a halt with a ceasefire in August 1988. Madad said Khorramshahr port would have the capacity to handle one million tonnes a year when it was reconstructed.

Mc Donald's attracts 25,000 Muscovites

MOSCOW (AP) — More than 25,000 Muscovites have swamped the Soviet capital's first McDonald's American hamburger restaurant with job applications, a restaurant spokesman has said. More than 1,000 applications for the 630 crew spots flooded in the first day after an advertisement was placed in a Moscow newspaper and hundreds are still trickling in a month later, said Rem Langan, director of McDonald's Moscow operations. Part-time Soviet workers at the new McDonald's will earn about 1.5 roubles per hour, Langan said. That translates to about \$2.50 according to the commercial rate, or about 25 cents according to a new tourist rate. The first Moscow McDonald's is scheduled to open Jan. 31. Langan said applicants in more than 3,000 interviews seemed interested in making a career with the company, hoping to follow in the footsteps of four Soviet employees who were taken to Canada and the United States for training.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, December 16, 1989		Denschemark		374.6	378.2
Central Bank official rates		Swiss franc		415.4	419.6
		Japanese yen (for 100)		446.4	450.9
		Dutch guilder		331.5	334.8
		Swedish crown		102.4	103.4
		Italian lira (for 100)		50.1	50.6
		Belgian franc (for 10)		178.3	178.1
		U.S. dollar		643.0	649.0
		Pound Sterling		1029.6	1039.9

Japanese per capita income ranks second after Swiss

WASHINGTON (AP) — The income of the average Japanese rose last year to the equivalent of \$21,040, beating out the average American's earnings of \$19,780. But the average Swiss remained in first place with \$27,260, the World Bank reported Friday.

In Iceland with \$20,160 and Norway with \$20,020 the average was also higher than in the United States. In 1987 the United States was second only to Switzerland.

Some of the differences were due to shifts in the value of the dollar compared with other currencies. In the past year, the dollar has been rising after a fall that began in 1985. In 1988 the average West German income showed an increase to \$18,530.

The bank gives no figures for the Soviet Union, which is not one of its 152 members. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency puts the average income there at \$8,850 for 1988, well behind \$12,480 in East Germany and \$10,140 in Czechoslovakia. China and India rank low on the income list, \$330. It was on the same level with poor African countries such as Benin — \$340 — or Kenya — \$360. But China

reported the fastest growth rate: nine per cent between 1986 and 1988, while Kenya's incomes grew by only 1.5 per cent and Benin showed a decline of 4.5 per cent.

One former World Bank economist, speaking anonymously, cautioned that the figures should not be taken to reflect living standards.

"In Sweden, people have to spend 15 per cent of their income fighting the climate," he said. "That's not the case in Italy."

Italy's average income is given as \$13,320 for 1988.

The bank gets its figures by dividing the value of a country's total production by its population. That takes no account of production that never gets into the official figures, such as drugs and other goods made for the black market and wages that go unreported to avoid taxes. Nor is there any way to figure shipments that are smuggled out of a country or billed for export at lower prices than are actually collected, so that the exporter can place the money abroad.

It has been estimated that this "underground economy" can account for as much as a third of some countries' incomes.

"The World Bank Atlas 1989," published Friday, reports Japan at the top in life expectancy. A Japanese baby born in 1988 could expect to live to the age of 78, compared with 77 for a Swiss, French or Swedish baby, 75 for a U.S. baby, 69 for a baby in the Soviet Union and 42 in such poor African countries as Guinea or Sierra Leone.

The greatest number of babies comparatively come in Rwanda. The average woman in that small African country can expect to have eight children, but with the expectation that they will live only to an average age of 49.

Literacy varied even more widely. Somalia, Niger and North Yemen reported in 1985 — the latest figures available — that only 12 to 14 per cent of their people could read and write. According to UNESCO, the rate is 95 per cent or higher in the more prosperous countries of Europe and America. China reported 69 per cent.

But many poor countries reported big jumps in school enrollment between 1970 and 1986: From 56 to 80 per cent in China and from seven per cent to 50 per cent in North Yemen.

China devalues yuan by 21%

BEIJING (AP) — China devalued its currency, the yuan, by 21.2 per cent in a long-awaited move intended to improve the nation's trade balance.

The devaluation was China's first since 1986 and its largest in recent years. The official Xinhua News Agency announced it after banks closed Friday.

Xinhua quoted the state administration of exchange control as saying the old exchange rate was too high, and that the new rate was "rational and will be conducive to boosting production and promoting foreign economic exchange and trade."

The rate against the U.S. dollar went from 3.71 yuan per dollar to 4.71 yuan, still below the prevailing black market rate of five to six yuan to the dollar. The Chinese government sets the yuan exchange rate unilaterally, and it long has been considered overvalued by standards of supply and demand.

Foreign observers had speculated that a devaluation was likely after the Bank of China imposed new restrictions last month on dollar account withdrawals and on exchanging yuan for dollars. The yuan is the basic unit of Chinese currency, which is called renminbi, or people's scrip. The government also issues special foreign exchange certificates, or FECS, to those converting dollars and other hard foreign currencies, and most shops and hotels

demand that foreigners use FECS. FECS are legally convertible to ordinary renminbi at a 1:1 rate, but because they can be exchanged for foreign currencies, FECS usually command a higher price on the black market.

There also has been speculation that the government might do away with FECS in order to eradicate the currency black market, but the government's brief announcement made no mention of such a move.

Many contracts with foreign companies tacitly acknowledge that the yuan is overvalued by providing for exchange of dollars or FECS at preferential rates.

A country generally devalues its currency in order to make its exports cheaper and imports more expensive. The government says the trade deficit has worsened this year despite tighter restrictions on imports and higher import tax, especially on luxury items such as cars. Customs officials said exports grew 10.5 per cent during the first nine months of the year, while imports grew

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Dec. 9, '89 and ending Wednesday Dec. 6, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

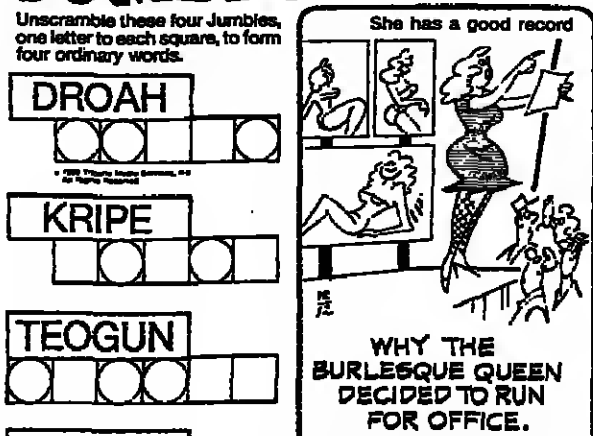
Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Per value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	1157	2841	2.450	2.460	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	2886	4129	1.400	1.370	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	18125	37621	2.040	2.080	1.000
Housing Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	50	1288	27.000	25.750	5.000
Cairo Amman Bank	1593	22304	14.000	14.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1510	318415	213.000	209.500	10.000
Arab Bank	33599	89548	2.510	2.520	1.000
Jordan National Bank	2364	7926	3.410	3.330	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	119706	231829	1.920	1.980	1.000
National Financial Investments	17317	43328	2.560	2.480	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	5650	5178	0.930	0.920	1.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	11000	19868	1.800	1.800	1.000
Jordan Insurance	14187	35328	2.500	2.500	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yamouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	3700	5418	1.400	1.420	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	7222	9607	1.320	1.430	1.000
Jordanian Insurance	7704	12439	1.540	1.650	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	480	745	1.620	1.620	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Abdiya Insurance	3049	5183	1.700	1.700	1.000
Arab Belgium Insurance and Reinsurance	4195	4405	1.000	1.050	1.000
United Insurance	7200	8280	1.170	1.150	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Imna for Investment and Financial Facilities	10420	10733	1.030	1.030	1.000
Darro for Housing and Investment	1263179	1008871	0.760	0.760	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Agarro)	898441	491384	0.450	0.470	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	113240	44492	0.860	0.960	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajecro	7834	11297	1.430	1.430	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	132465	212806	1.610	1.610	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	39050	20582	0.500	0.530	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	62050	168464	2.710	2.670	1.000
United Middle East and Comodoro Hotels	10150	30497	3.000	3.480	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	200	322	1.610	1.710	2.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	49300	83163	1.750	1.640	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	16069	82210	5.170	5.130	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	109859	309905	2.830	2.800	1.000
Dar Al Shab Press, Printing and Publishing	1464	6192	4.210	4.280	1.000
Jordan Dairy	21188	60760	2.810	2.810	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	800	6400	6.400	6.400	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	325100	323139	1.020	1.300	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	35150	130772	3.730	3.600	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intag)	128810	357137	2.820	2.740	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	1163	6164	5.300	5.300	1.000
Jordan Cement Industries	6300	21395	3.500	3.350	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	250	655	2.750	2.620	1.000
Chemical Industries	210830	345593	1.560	1.670	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	40120	173158	4.010	4.140	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	6350	17862	2.870	2.810	1.000
National Steel Industries	53520	255154	4.500	4.930	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	3142	25181	8.000	8.040	1.000
General Mining	25630	29264	1.000	1.080	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	18600	7946	0.360	0.440	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	673340	432731	0.580	0.630	1.000
National Industries	15200	53986	3.520	3.630	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	22875	17511	0.750	0.800	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	23100	79650	3.450	3.400	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	1000	1975	1.910	2.000	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	6135	40160	6.500	6.550	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	132095	352098	2.440	2.820	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Hinch Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	37648	45418	0.950	1.270	1.000
Wooden Industries	100	202	2.020	2.000	1.000
Jordan Tanning and Packing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mass Industries	112350	276272	2.510	2.430	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	63572	287445	4.070	4.880	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	128250	368799	2.890	2.830	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	45330	129138	2.890	2.810	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	78434	81978	1.030	1.050	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	5360	7780	1.470	1.450	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	599909	398804	0.610	0.650	1.000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Grand total	6,085,942	7,944,941			

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



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JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Answer: SHE HAD TO (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRAZE ABIDE TYPIST BLOUSE

Answer: What ignorance at the beach is — "BLISS-TEH"

Arsenal, Liverpool hit 8 goals between them

LONDON (R) — Arsenal and Liverpool continued to set the pace in the English first division with high-scoring wins on Saturday.

The champions beat Luton 3-2 to extend their unbeaten home run to 10 matches and to top the league with 36 points, two more than second-placed Liverpool.

Liverpool crushed Chelsea 5-2 after going two goals up in the opening five minutes through Peter Beardsley — overlooked by

England for last Wednesday's World Cup warmup against Yugoslavia — and Ian Rush.

Rush rounded off Liverpool's scoring in the 75th minute with his 11th goal of the season and the 14th Chelsea have conceded in their last three matches.

Aston Villa, who had won eight and drawn one of their previous 10 matches and were joint second with Liverpool, fell to a surprise 2-0 defeat at Millwall who had not won in their last 10 games.

8 qualify for chess cup

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain (AP) — European junior champion Boris Gelfand of the Soviet Union topped a list of eight players, including two Americans, who qualified for the world cup of chess at the end of a nine-round tournament here Friday.

In his ninth-round match, Gelfand drew with fellow Soviet Mikhail Gurevich, the world's seventh-ranked player. Gelfand

finished the qualifying tournament with 7.5 points. Gurevich also qualified with a total of 6.5 points.

Qualifying with 7.0 points were Gata Kamsky and Anthony Miles of the United States. Kamsky defeated Miodras Todorovic of Yugoslavia and Miles defeated Oleg Romanishin of the Soviet Union.

THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg

ACROSS

1. U.S. mess.
2. Was immersed
3. Campaigner's
4. To shelter
5. HI city
6. Bert's partner
7. Davenport
8. Side
9. Owing's
10. Gerbil's e.g.
11. In prison
12. Like San
13. Francisco
14. Lumberjack's
15. Job
16. Marked
17. Temp's call
18. Ancient letters
19. Motorist
20. Island
21. In addition
22. Film's
23. Top
24. Dakota
25. Took to court
26. Allen or
27. From
28. Book sheet
29. Peacefully
30. Viggo
31. Thick soup
32. Up against it
33. Hairs
34. "We all?"
35. Cheese store
36. zchose
37. Exchange
38. Day
39. "and
40. Marriage"
41. Wein
42. Vehicles
43. "To and a
44. bone"
45. Court word

DOWN

1. Intake of
2. Ointment
3. Word for a
4. Shore
5. Ought to
6. Weak-willed
7. Came to earth
8. Flame lover?
9. Unknown
10. Boxer's coach
11. Cal
12. Excavation
13. Equal
14. Leader
15. In case
16. Wine item
17. Skimmed
18. Tart man
19. In with
20. Certain path
21. Ordinary
22. Cent
23. Chinney part
24. Skilling spot
25. Appear
26. Bridged
27. Hot sauce
28. Subdivides
29. Aromatic seed
30. Tropical fruit
31. Fishes in a
32. Nuncupative
33. "The Way
34. We —"
35. Creme —
36. Fragrance
37. Steak order
38. Chooses

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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38. Chooses

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good time to engage in favorite hobbies, amusements and other pleasures that have been of interest to you for some time. Invite a special friend to join you in the PM.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Double check your family's wishes so that you do not go off on the wrong track for them. Do with your attachment things that you have both enjoyed before.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Go along with festivities that are suggested by one who has had considerable experience. Older men friends will prove to be the best guests to have today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Do not be upset that a family member cannot take a long-anticipated trip. Join with new friends in different pleasures in the company of your mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Now is the time to ask some personal favor from meo in highly influential positions. A woman of brilliant ideas can aid you at home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you go on some social pleasure jaunts, make it with new acquaintances. Don't turn your home today into a continuous round of parties and entertainment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make arrangements to clear up debts so that your financial struc-

ture is more secure. Come to a better agreement at home about expensive ideas you are planning.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your usual activities should be going along very well at the moment. If some jaunts come up with your attachment, be sure to take them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put new life in your usual activities and get away from outdated systems and methods. Cut down on expenditures that are unnecessary at your home.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A time to join interesting and colorful friends at places of entertainment. Many opportunities are at your home now if you do not try to run the show.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Behind the scenes activities where good friends are concerned could prove an unhappy boomerang. Don't complain about disappointments at home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now is the time to start a fresh round of calls and visits to close companions with your family. This is the day to be careful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Rely upon an older friend in any sort of personal relationships you want improved. It will take a while to develop the new projects that you like.

Sweden, West Germany split singles matches in Davis Cup

By Stephan Nasstrom
The Associated Press

STUTTGART, West Germany — Boris Becker and Mats Wilander were looking for revenge. Both got it by winning their opening singles matches in the Davis Cup final Friday.

Becker, who lost to Stefan Edberg in the Masters final less than two weeks ago, overpowered the Swede 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 to even the best-of-5 final between West Germany and Sweden at one match apiece.

Wilander needed nearly 4½ hours to beat Carl-Uwe Steeb 5-7, 7-6, 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, a win that avenged a bitter loss to the German in last year's opening match.

Becker, serving and returning to near perfection, needed less than two hours to beat Edberg.

"I don't think I can play any better," said "I played great tennis against a very good opponent."

Edberg's superb serve-and-volley game keyed his Masters win. This time, it was Becker's turn to attack.

"I said then that the loss was going to help me in order to pump myself up for this match,"

Becker said. "That's exactly what happened. I trained hard the last 10 days and in a way the (Masters) loss was good for me."

After winning the first two sets with ease, the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion hit some sparkling returns to take a 4-3 lead in the third set.

Becker, who faced a break point in the sixth game, then ended the match by twice holding his serve at love in the eighth and 10th games before a partisan sell-out crowd of 10,500 at Schleyer Halle. He slammed 12 aces past Edberg on the fast carpet.

"The key was that I got an early break," said Becker, whose win gave him a 14-8 match record against Edberg. "Once I started to roll I didn't look back any more and I played better and better. I also had a very good return."

Wilander said his match against Steeb was "comparable with a few of the grand slams."

"Maybe not the U.S. Open, but it means a lot for me," he said. "It's great that it means so much for the team and for Sweden. It's a great feeling."

Wilander's victory avenged a bitter five-set loss to Steeb in the

opening match of last year's final on indoor clay at Goteborg, Sweden.

"I think it's the first time I've won a five-set match in a Davis Cup final," Wilander said after beating Steeb for the second time in three meetings.

"I don't know if I played better today than last year. I wanted to play better and I wanted to win this match. I was psyched up."

The setback in last year's final started Wilander's slide. He dropped out of the top 10 early this year after finishing 1988 as no. 1 following his three grand slam titles — in the Australian, French and U.S. opens.

"I think it's a good end of a lousy year," said Wilander, now ranked 12th in the world.

Wilander took command after a 10-minute break following the third set.

Leading 3-2 in the decisive set, Wilander won 10 of the last 13 games to earn his long-awaited revenge.

"Things started to turn around a little in the fourth and fifth

sets," Wilander said. "I got an early break in the fourth set and that was really important."

"That break changed the whole thing. Then I started playing with more confidence."

Steeb, who saved one match point before upsetting Wilander in last year's opener, stayed off one at 3-5 in the fifth set Friday.

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Irbid District Electricity Co.
P.O.Box 46,
Irbid - Jordan

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Wasef Azar
Managing Director

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♠ K 10 2
♥ 8 4 3
♦ A J 9 7
♣ K J 8

EAST

♠ 9 4
♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ K 10 8 4 3
♣ 7 6 3

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 7
♥ J 10
♦ 6 2
♣ A Q 10 9 5

The bidding:

	North	East
1♠	1♣	2♣
2♠	3♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♥

The late Alphonse "Sonny" Moysse was a staunch proponent of the theory that a 4-3 major fit provides an excellent trump suit. That might be so, but it requires careful technique to maintain control of the hand.

North-South conducted an im-

maculate auction to reach the only makable game. Note that, in five clubs, declarer has no way to avoid losing three tricks in the red suits.

West cashed the king and queen of hearts, then continued with the ace. If the spades break 3-3, declarer cannot go wrong. He can ruff, draw trumps and claim 10 tricks—three spades, a ruff, one diamond and five clubs. However, an even spade division is against the odds. The most likely distribution is 4-2. Can declarer neutralize that?

Of course. Instead of ruffing the third heart, declarer must discard his diamond loser—a trick he would have had to surrender anyway. Now it needs only a modicum of care to make sure of the contract.

Best is for West to continue with a fourth heart. Declarer has only to take the simple precaution of ruffing with one of the table's high trumps to land his contract. All that is left to be done is make sure the spades are no worse than 4-2, draw the trumps and claim the rest of the tricks.

Who knows? Perhaps Sonny was right, after all.

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Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

TAI-PAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

TWO MOON JUNCTION

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571

Nadia Al Jundi In TERRORISM (Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 674111

Clint Eastwood in DEAD POOL

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Sofia to open dialogue on reform

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's Communist leaders, struggling to regain public trust, have agreed to begin talks with opposition leaders next week, according to leading activist Konstantin Trenchev.

Trenchev said Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov and leading politician Andrei Lukinov held a lunchtime meeting on Friday with four opposition leaders. They included philosopher Zhelyu Zhelev, chairman of a newly formed umbrella group called the Union of Democratic Forces.

"They agreed in principle to have round table talks next week," Trenchev told Reuters, but said he could not name a date.

Opposition activity has blossomed in Bulgaria since new leader Petar Mladenov ousted veteran hardliner Todor Zhivkov last month.

But while Mladenov has promised free elections, an end to the party's guaranteed monopoly on power and dialogue with opposition, many Bulgarians have grown impatient with the pace of reform.

Thousands of people streamed into the streets of central Sofia on Friday evening for the second day running to demonstrate for faster political change.

But in contrast to a mass demonstration outside parliament on Thursday, the crowd split into groups around the city.

About 2,000 jeering demonstrators marched through fog to the headquarters of state television to protest that coverage of Thursday's rally had presented the crowd as extremists.

"We are not extremists" we are the people" demonstrators shouted, heckling television representatives who tried to address them.

They roared with delight after Georgi Spasov, one of the four activists who arranged the talks with the Communists, called for a television channel to air opposition views.

Uniformed police formed a chain across the entrance to the building but did not intervene. The crowd finally dispersed af-



Pro-democracy demonstrators in Sofia bear a photograph of Stalin with cynicism.

ter newly-appointed head of television Filip Bokov apologized for the coverage and promised to show their protest with a personal commentary later in the evening.

A few hundred metres away about 5,000 people gathered outside the Alexander Nevski cathedral to hold a candlelit tribute to Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, who died on Thursday.

A further 4,000 protesters, many shouting "Freedom" and "Resign" gathered outside the empty parliament building.

But the protest was far smaller and more subdued than the

40,000-strong crowd at Thursday's rally who shouted down Mladenov and other government officials with demands for an immediate end to the party's monopoly on power.

Thursday's protest, which could be heard in a parliamentary session inside the building, was the greatest challenge to Mladenov's authority since he took power last month.

The pro-democracy student rally turned angry after parliament voted to postpone for one month the election of the party's

leading role from the constitution.

A resolution read inside parliament as the protest continued denounced the rally as "a demonstration of political vulgarity and intolerance."

But a package of resolutions passed by parliament on Friday included a formal pledge that it would scrap the clause which guarantees the party's leading role at its next session in January — a move seen by opposition leaders as an attempt to soothe public anger.

New coup fear in south Philippines

DAVAO, Philippines (Agencies)

— More troops, backed by tanks, were rushed to Davao Saturday after reports rebel soldiers planned to launch a new push in their attempt to topple President Corason Aquino in the southern Philippines.

Brigadier General Mariano Baccay told a press conference two companies of troops had arrived from the southern city of Zamboanga, joining a battalion of battle-tested marines sent in to reinforce Davao Friday.

Brigadier General Guillermo Flores, commander of the turbulent Mindanao region, said security has also been tightened around the airport in Cotabato city "and other possible enemy targets," as well as in Zamboanga.

Flores said in a statement the moves were a precautionary response to reports that rebel forces, led by the former deputy commander of Aquino's palace guard, were planning to launch a

new phase of their coup attempt against Aquino in Mindanao.

Baccay, the Davao regional commander, urged rebel soldiers to abandon any plans to stir up trouble in Mindanao, long a stronghold of Communist and Muslim rebels.

"I am appealing to the armed elements who are not with the chain of command and not with the constitutional armed forces to discontinue whatever plans they have to destabilize this part of the country," he said.

Philippine Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa Saturday dismissed reports that army rebels planned to launch a new phase of their coup in Mindanao.

Loyalist government troops put down the sixth and most serious attempt to topple Aquino with the help of U.S. combat planes in the first week of December but rebel leaders have vowed they will try again.

"The coup is finished," de Villa declared.

He said a battalion of 500 marines had been sent to Davao as a precaution. "We are just making sure that the situation does not get exacerbated or... does not deteriorate," he told a press conference in Manila.

He said rumours that one of the coup leaders was heading a column of rebel troops marching towards Davao were wrong and the military in Mindanao remained loyal to Aquino.

"The military in Mindanao is not in rebellion," de Villa said. But de Villa admitted that a former operations chief of the presidential security guard called Colonel Alexander Noble, who had joined the rebels, was in Mindanao. Unconfirmed military reports said he may be leading 250 tribesmen.

Aquino's intelligence chief Rodolfo Camero said Thursday that trouble was brewing on Mindanao. He said rebel forces were trying to link up with secessionist politicians.

Number two of Medellin cartel killed in shootout

BOGOTA (Agencies) — Police who had stalked him for months have killed Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, one of the most powerful cocaine barons, in a shootout near Covenas, a port on the Caribbean.

Rodriguez Gacha, his 17-year-old son, Freddy, and five bodyguards were slain Friday in a gun battle 850 kilometres north of Bogota on a ranch owned by Pablo Escobar, godfather of Colombia's multibillion-dollar drug empire, national police chief Miguel Gomez Padilla said at a news conference.

Rodriguez Gacha was number two in the Medellin cartel and on the list of a dozen Colombian drug traffickers most wanted by the U.S. Justice Department.

Escobar, who leads the Medellin operation and remains at large, was believed to be in the area of the ranch at the time of the shootout, Interior Minister Carlos Lemos said in a televised interview.

Lemos did not elaborate except to say sternly to the camera,

"Individuals who are involved in crime will end up like Rodriguez Gacha ended up."

Escobar and Rodriguez Gacha, nicknamed "The Mexican" because of his fondness for anything Mexican, have been the objects of manhunt by U.S. and Colombian authorities since President Virgilio Barco ordered a crackdown on drug traffickers after a opposition presidential candidate was slain Aug. 18.

Police earlier reported 15 bodyguards among the dead before downgrading that to five. There was no word on police casualties.

"The operation to locate Rodriguez Gacha was an intelligence operation of great care," Carlos Arturo Castañeda, assistant director of the national police, said in an interview with the Caracol radio network.

Authorities say Rodriguez Gacha and Escobar planned the Dec. 8 bombing of the federal investigative police headquarters in downtown Bogota. The blast, which left a huge crater, killed 63

people and injured an estimated 1,000 people.

The bombing was considered the most brazen by the traffickers, who have mounted dozens of attacks to retaliate for the extradition of 10 drug suspects to the United States.

A total of 209 people have been killed in bombings and assassinations. Among those killed in the bombings have been 50 judges, two newspaper publishers and the chief of the narcotics police.

The two men also were accused in the Nov. 27 bombing of a Colombian domestic jetliner just outside Bogota that killed all 107 people aboard.

In October, the government offered \$581,000 for the capture of either man.

Rodriguez Gacha, who died a billionaire, was a pig farmer before he got into the cocaine business.

Among his victims, according to Colombian authorities, was the president of the leftist Patriotic Union Party, Jaime Pardo Leal,

COLUMN

Ben skips a beat

LONDON (AP) — The four clock faces on Big Ben clanked to a halt for three hours Friday, and London's heart seemed to skip a beat. The government agency that services Big Ben and other state buildings throughout the country said the clock stopped at 11:06 a.m. and was out of action until about 2:15 p.m. The cause of the breakdown was not immediately disclosed, said a spokesman for the property services agency.

'What Eddie wants, Eddie gets'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Paramount Pictures knew a film idea comedian Eddie Murphy brought to the studio was based on a plot by columnist Art Buchwald but ignored a contract with Buchwald to please the actor, a lawyer said Friday. "What Eddie wants, Eddie gets," the lawyer, Pierce O'Donnell, representing Buchwald, told a jury at the trial of a \$5 million lawsuit brought by the columnist against Paramount, producers of "Coming to America." O'Donnell said the box office hit, starring Murphy and Arsenio Hall, a comedian and talk-show host, was inspired and based on what Buchwald wrote in 1983.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	°C	°F	Weather
AMSTERDAM	02	36	10 Cloudy
ATHENS	08	46	19 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	17	63	20 Cloudy
BANGKOK	18	65	26 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	08	46	23 Clear
CARACAS	14	57	20 Clear
CHICAGO	-22	-09	16 Clear
COPENHAGEN	-06	21	30 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	08	48	24 Rain
GENOVA	08	46	16 Rain
HONG KONG	16	61	20 Clear
ISTANBUL	08	46	17 Clear
LONDON	08	46	17 Rain
LOS ANGELES	11	51	21 Cloudy
MADRID	10	50	14 Rain
MEXICO	21	70	28 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-22	-08	05 Clear
MOSCOW	-13	12	06 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	08	46	23 Clear
NEW YORK	-05	23	05 Clear
PARIS	11	52	15 Cloudy
ROME	08	46	19 Clear
SYDNEY	14	57	21 Rain
TOKYO	07	45	13 Clear
VIENNA	08	46	19 Clear

French troops stay in Comoros

MORONI (R) — French troops will stay in the Comoro Islands for up to two years to train security forces, its interim president said Friday after European mercenaries left the Indian Ocean country they had controlled for three weeks.

Acting President Said Mohamed Djohar, saying the mercenaries had held him virtually hostage, told a news conference he had asked France to intervene under a defence treaty between the two countries.

Djohar said little in public since he took charge three weeks ago after President Ahmad Abdallah was assassinated. He was speaking only hours after 22 of the mercenaries, including their leader, Frenchman Bob Denard, left on a special flight to South Africa on their way to France and other destinations.

Another group of five soldiers of fortune and their families arrived in Paris aboard a regular Air France flight from the Comorian capital Moroni.

Shortly before the main group left, about 190 French troops flew

to the country to fill the vacuum created by the departure of mercenaries who ensured security, apart from commanding the elite Presidential Guard Denard founded.

The mostly French mercenary officers of the 650-strong Presidential Guard, the country's main security force, seized control after Abdallah was murdered in mysterious circumstances Nov. 26.

Djohar said the French troops would remain in the Comoros, which obtained independence from France in 1975, for a period to be agreed by the two governments.

Pressed further, he said French troops might stay to help lead and train Comoran security forces for one or two years.

Describing the mercenaries' hold on him, Djohar said: "There are some hostages who have their feet and hands tied, and others who are free, but who for diverse reasons are still hostages."

But Djohar, who as president of the supreme court succeeded Abdallah under the terms of the



(Late) Ahmad Abdallah

constitution, admitted that because of the mercenaries, his government had been powerless.

The interim president said the mercenaries had prevented his government from reading messages of condolence on Abdallah's death from foreign govern-

ments on state radio.

The 70-year-old veteran politician said he was also prevented from contacting France by telephone or telex to request assistance to get rid of the mercenaries and he was forced to do so secretly through other channels.

Asked whether he thought the mercenaries had killed Abdallah as widely believed in the Comoros, Djohar said only that an inquiry was in progress.

France and South Africa, the two countries with the most influence on the island state of 450,000 people, suspended aid to the Comoros in protest at Abdallah's murder and negotiated jointly with the mercenaries to secure their peaceful departure.

"France told us, this business doesn't concern you now. It is between France and Bob Denard," he said.

Pretoria and Paris provided Denard and his men with financial assistance for the past decade when they were the power behind Abdallah's rule on the Indian Ocean islands.

Marcos found liable in Seattle murders

SEATTLE (AP) — Ferdinand Marcos, the late deposed ruler of the Philippines, was found liable Friday in the 1981 murders of two anti-Marcos activists in Seattle.

Marcos and his widow, Imelda, were ordered to pay more than \$14 million to the survivors of Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes.

Family members and supporters of the plaintiffs cried as U.S. District Judge Barbara Rothstein read the unanimous verdicts, which found Marcos and his widow were part of a conspiracy and were negligent in a way that led to the shooting deaths on June 1, 1981, in offices of the Alaska Cannery Workers Union.

A three-man, three-woman U.S. district court jury deliberated five hours before ruling on the involvement of the Marcoses in the shooting deaths of Domingo and Viernes.

The civil lawsuit was the first of several legal cases against the Marcoses to go to trial in this country, according to the Marcoses' attorney, Richard Hilbey of Washington, D.C.

Jurors had to decide whether the Marcoses were part of a

conspiracy that led to the murders and whether they were negligent in exercising control over their intelligence network.

A unanimous verdict on either of those questions was sufficient to find Marcos' estate and Mrs. Marcos liable and subject to damages.

Survivors of Domingo were awarded \$12.7 million, while Viernes' survivors were ordered to receive \$2.2 million.

Attorneys for victims' survivors had asked jurors to calculate the Marcoses' liability at about \$10 million.

The civil trial had a lower standard of proof than the "beyond a reasonable doubt" proof required in criminal trials. The conspiracy count required a showing of "clear, cogent and convincing" evidence, and the negligence count a showing of a "preponderance" of evidence.

Rothstein will judge liability of the other defendants. They are Constantine Barso, former president of the Alaska Cannery Workers Union who allegedly paid the murderers and whose gun was used in the killings; Dr. Leonilo Malabed of San Francisco, a Marcos

friend who allegedly ran an intelligence slush fund that financed the murder payment; and the three men convicted of the murders.

Local prosecutors convicted the trio in 1981 and 1982, arguing Domingo and Viernes were killed because of an internal union dispute. They had been elected as reformers of the Alaska Cannery Workers Union and reportedly had worked against gang influence on work assignments and gambling in Alaska fish canneries.

But plaintiffs claimed the men were killed by an intelligence network, headed by the Marcoses, that harassed and intimidated activists in the United States who opposed the Marcos' martial-law regime.

In testimony during the 3½-week trial:

— Marcos, in a video made before his death, admitted he used four agencies to gather intelligence in the United States. But he insisted they did nothing more than the normal intelligence gathering of all nations, that he practised "maximum tolerance" of his opposition, and that he didn't become concerned about dissidence in

the United States until about 1984.

— Marcos described Malabed as a friend, but invoked the U.S. constitution's Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination when asked about any intelligence connections with Malabed and the Mabuhay Corporation, which allegedly was a cover for a slush fund that provided \$15,000 for the murders.

— Malabed, in depositions, admitted he maintained a fund through Mabuhay from which he made payments to a Philippines official for "broadcast projects" in this country.

— Malabed also admitted he signed a Mabuhay expense account that listed several "special security projects," including a May 17, 1981, entry for \$15,000 that plaintiffs claim was used to pay for the murders. A notation in his handwriting on that sheet indicated Malabed received \$1 million from Philippines National Bank for "intelligence purposes," but Malabed said the wording had been dictated to him by the Philippines official to whom he made payments.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etemow

SORORITY

Lois Sabin

ACROSS

1. Showed shock
2. Fireable
3. Signer's word
4. Parents
5. Mentally alert
6. Formerly
7. A star
8. Dispatch beat
9. Starry-eyed
10. Musical halls
11. Caesar's companion
12. Attention
13. Web comic
14. Durable-Bellamy
15. I'll
16. Past master
17. Legal matter
18. Major Hoople's
19. A feast
20. Mountain

DOWN

1. Down
2. Turk. title
3. Olay
4. Boring section
5. Honeybunch
6. Pious wolf
7. Tibert's gift
8. 1985
9. Road
10. Home
11. "The... Not for"
12. Marc prof.
13. Substitute
14. Town of "Cashed"
15. Previews
16. Cops
17. L. who district
18. Postcards
19. Fax holders
20. Gallery staple
21. Check

Diagram

19c19, By Harold H. Conn

1. Motorcycle
2. 500
3. Living
4. Bumpkin
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DOWN

1. Body fat
2. Sarat
3. Type of school
4. Dope
5. City
6. Car
7. Chin. secret
8. Blackbird
9. Prompt
10. Exalt
11. Perform
12. Warhol or
13. Kinman
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